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DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA / NEW JERSEY

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION TEAM

DENVER SERVICE CENTER
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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ABSTRACT

The Delaware Valley north of the famous Water Gap has been for centuries a thoroughfare from the Hudson River in the northeast to the Lehigh Valley and lower Delaware Valley in the south. Trails and, later, roads crossed the river at several points connecting the Ohio Valley with the Atlantic Coast. In the first decades of the 18th century, descendants of the early Dutch settlers near Kingston, New York followed the Indian paths south to settle along the Delaware River north of the Water Gap. The culture these settlers brought to the Upper Delaware would later be diluted as other national groups pushed into the region from the south and east.

Events touched the region lightly. Indian hostility was uncommon. The American Revolution was marked by the passage of armies, but while the eastern area of New Jersey was a cockpit of activity the residents on the western border remained spectators. With the beginning of the 19th century the region became an area of small farms and villages touched more by the passing seasons than great events.

The historical base map that accompanies this report reflects this pastoral state. The houses, interesting architectural examples of the "Upper Delaware Valley Type", were built mostly in the early 19th century, often on 18th century foundations. Perhaps a dozen houses in the New Jersey section of the recreation area predate 1790. Many of the most interesting architectural or historical sites are menaced by the proposed Tocks Island Dam and Reservoir. This report attempts to draw together information on about 80 sites along the New Jersey shore to aid the staff of the area in planning and interpretation.

INTRODUCTION

In 1968 F. Ross Holland completed a historical base map for the lower third of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. The accompanying report covers the remainder of the area on the New Jersey side of the river. It is hoped that the final third of the historical base map will be completed during the 1973 fiscal year.

In preparing this map a slightly different approach has been used from that of Mr. Holland. The first three chapters are devoted to a general history of the upper Delaware Valley, emphasizing events that occurred near the boundaries of the recreation area. The final portion of the report, expanding upon the information given in the first section, documents the historical base map itself, which appears at the end of the report.

The Delaware Valley, from the Gap to the northern terminus, near the southern end of Mashipacong Island south of Port Jervis, New York, had a turbulent and exciting history in the 18th century, but the last 150 years have seen few events of national or even local significance on the New Jersey side of the river. The historic period, then, for the base map will be the hundred years after the first recorded settlements in the region, with lesser notice taken of the years after 1825. This decision was determined in part by the research done as well as from conversations with Superintendent Peter DeGelleke and Historian Albert Dillahunt of Delaware Water Gap NRA.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks must be given first to Albert Dillahunty, Historian at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, who spent three days locating and showing the writer historic sites along the river and sharing his vast knowledge of the area. In addition, Al provided material from the files of the area that aided considerably in the preparation of this report. To Mrs. Elizabeth Walters, local historian, I owe thanks for her aid and suggestions as to sources. The research files at Delaware Water Gap are to a great extent the work of Mrs. Walters. Ted Brush of Newton, New Jersey lent me a copy of his study on the forts along the Jersey frontier which proved invaluable.

Finally a word of thanks to Barry Mackintosh of the Division of History who read the study in draft. Miss Patricia Zbel typed the report. To all the above and many others I owe thanks. I accept all responsibility for those errors that remain.

LEB

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CHAPTER I

Aboriginal Inhabitants of the Upper Delaware

Settlement of the Delaware Valley was begun by Swedish and later Dutch pioneers near the mouth of the Delaware River and then moved up stream after the English gained control of the region. The settlement of the valley proceeded at a constant pace as far as the Forks of the Delaware, where the Lehigh joins the Delaware from the west. North of this junction, where the present town of Easton is located, a succession of heavily forested mountain chains blocked several gaps. Flowing around the ends of two separate mountain ridges, the Delaware River created a spectacular, but nearly impassable land route, the Delaware Water Gap. When settlers pushed over the mountains from the south they found the river bottom land settled by people of chiefly Dutch extraction who had traveled south from the area of Kingston, New York in the years after 1700. During the years from 1720 to 1770, then, while the land south of the mountains was filling up, the valley north of the Delaware Water Gap and south of Port Jervis, New York was also being settled.

The same mountains that divided the northward and southward thrusts also limited settlement to a narrow strip of land on the New Jersey shore and to a slightly wider bench in Pennsylvania. Once settled, families remained in the area. Descendants of the early settlers still reside on portions of the original land claims.¹

The same cannot be said for the aboriginal inhabitants of the region. The Delaware Indians occupied an area bounded by the Atlantic Coast from Delaware Bay to the western end of Long Island, including all of Manhattan and Staten Islands. They dominated the drainage basin of the Delaware River and the land west of the Hudson as far as Kingston, New York. Known as the Lenni-Lenape, this tribe was designated "Delaware" by the English who also named the river. The Indians had early contact with the

1. Luke W. Brodhead, The Delaware Water Gap: Its Scenery, Its Legends and Early History, (Philadelphia, 1870), p. 234.

European explorers along the coast and with the settlements at the mouths of the Delaware and Hudson Rivers.

The tribe was divided into three clans or sub-tribes: the Minsi, north of the junction of the Lehigh and the Delaware; the Unami, along the central portion of the river; and the Unalachtigo along the southern part of the river and at its mouth.²

The Lenni-Lenape were a sedentary, village-dwelling people who gained their existence through a combination of agriculture, hunting and fishing, and the gathering of wild food crops. Their social organization was matriarchal with lineages numbering as many as 50, each under the supervision of a male chief appointed by the matriarch. Several lineages often joined together, forming a village that contained several hundred people. Each family possessed a wigwam made of saplings lashed together, covered with bark or thatched with grass or rushes and plastered with mud on the exterior. Although the Delaware never formed a united nation they did have some concept of themselves as a community. In 1600 there were about 8,000 of these Algonkian-speaking villagers living in the present states of New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. The advent of Dutch and Swedish settlers did not materially affect the land over which they roamed. Beginning with the first conference with William Penn in 1682, their land began to shrink. About 1720 the Iroquois assumed domination over them, and the whites, with the acquiescence of the Iroquois, began to push the tribe west into the Susquehanna and Wyoming valleys. By 1750 some of the tribe had drifted as far as eastern Ohio. Under the influence of the French and later the English during the Revolutionary

2. Dorothy Cross, New Jersey's Indians, Report No. 1 of the New Jersey State Museum (Trenton, 1965), p. 2; John R. Swanton, Indian Tribes of North America, Bureau of American Ethnology Bull. 145 (Washington, 1952), p. 49; and Anthony F. C. Wallace, King of the Delawares: Teedyuscung, 1700-1763 (Freeport, 1970), p. 6. Wallace believes that the three clans were present in all areas of Delaware occupation and not limited geographically (p. 10).

War, the Lenni-Lenape warred against settlers, especially in Pennsylvania where the infamous walking Purchase had deprived them of the last of their claims along the Delaware River. The remnants of the tribe drifted west into Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, and Texas and ultimately were settled in Oklahoma. Another segment, under the influence of Moravian missionaries, was located in the Province of Ontario, Canada.³

The Delawares occupying the northern third of their ancestral home were designated the Minsis or Munseer. The area they occupied was rendered in more than 30 different spellings by Europeans before the present day term "Minisink" evolved. As early as 1649 the Munsee were being described in a subsection of a "Remonstrance of the Deputies From New Netherland and the Occurences There Addressed to the High and Mighty Lords States General of the United Netherlands by the People of the New Netherland."⁴ A map printed the following year contained the designation "Minisink or Land of the Villages" and included two illustrations showing stockaded villages.⁵

One of the several villages of the Munsee, later designated the Great Minisink Village, was situated directly south of Minisink Island on the high level land of the Jersey shore. In addition, there was one camp-site at the northern end of the Island. East of the village was a large burial site. This village is said to be one of the principal towns or

3. Cross, New Jersey's Indians, p. 34-36; Swanton, Indian Tribes of North America, p. 48 and 54; Wallace, King of the Delawares, pp. 6-13; and Frederick W. Hodge, Handbook of American Indians North of Mexico (2 vols., Washington, 1907), 1, 385-86.

4. John R. Brodhead, Documents Relative to the Colonial History of New York Procured in Holland, England, and France (15 vols, Albany, 1856), 1, 281-83.

5. Charles A. Philhower, "The Historic Minisink Site," The Archeological Society of New Jersey Bulletin No. 7 (November, 1953), p. 1. The map is reproduced in the report.

council places of Minsi. It was first directly referred to in 1685 when author Thomas Budd noted, "an Indian Town called Minisincks which is accounted from the Falls [of the Delaware at Trenton] about eighty miles about Minisincks both in New Jersey and Pennsylvania there is a great quantity of exceeding rich open land."⁶ In his 1719 survey journal John Reading listed four villages drained by the present-day Neversink River in the valley and three--Machip'pacong, Wendian'mong, and Mennissinke--on the Delaware. Within a decade the first permanent European settlements had begun in the vicinity of the Minisink Village.

These Dutch settlers lived in relative harmony with the Indians for the next quarter-century. The attitude of all the Delawares, but especially the Minsis, began to turn against the whites in 1737 at the conclusion of the Walking Purchase that transferred most of the lands south of Minisink Village to Pennsylvania. As the pressure of settlement in Pennsylvania increased the Minsis moved west. When the Minsis took their revenge during the French and Indian War the major brunt⁷ of it fell on the Pennsylvania rather than the New Jersey settlements.

One major reason for the prominence of this village at Minisink Island was its location as a crossroads for trade routes. The best known of these was the Great Minisink Path that ran from the village to Hainesville on the Little Flatbrook, through Nomanock (Culvers) Gap past Culver Lake, through Branchville, Augusta, and Newton, and then ran either east or

6. Philhower, "Historic Minisink Site," p. 7; citing Thomas Budd, Good Order Established in Pennsylvania and New Jersey in American, Being an Account of the Country Made in the Year 1685 (New York, 1865), p. 30.

7. The discussion of the Minisink Village is based on the following sources: Hodge, Handbook of American Indians North of Mexico, 1, pp. 869 and 957; Max Schrabisch, "Indian Habitations in Sussex County, New Jersey," New Jersey Geological Survey Bulletin 13 (1915), pp. 12 and 28; and Wallace, King of the Delawares, p. 11.

west of Lake Hopatcong, to Chatham, Millburn, Springfield, Westfield, Metuchen, crossing the Red River at Red Root Creek and reaching the Atlantic Coast at Seabright near the mouth of the Neversink River.⁸ A western trail originating in the Ohio Valley passed through the northwestern part of Pennsylvania via the West Branch of the Susquehanna through Muncy to Nanticoke and Scranton. It then followed the high ground until it descended through Raymonds Kill Gap, crossing the river to Minisink Village. A trail ran south from the village via the Bevans Rock Shelter through the Calno settlement, past the Pahaquarry flats and on through the Water Gap. A second southern route crossed the Delaware above Dingman's Ferry on a rock rift that is visible during low water. On the Pennsylvania shore the trail passed by Stroudsburg, through Wind Gap and into the Lehigh Valley. Trails branched off this to points west and south. Going north from Minisink village a trail ran via the Neversink and Rondout River valleys, past Wawarsing to Kingston on the Hudson River. Each of these main trails linked with other routes and with smaller trails to form a network of trade paths.⁹ The trails were only two or three feet wide and their course was generally determined by the path of least resistance.

8. Cross, New Jersey's Indians, p. 47; Richard P. McCormick, New Jersey From Colony to State, 1609-1789 (Princeton, 1964), p. 8; Philhower, "The Minisink Indian Trail," Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society 8 (July, 1923), 200-02; and Philhower, "The Historic Minisink Country," The Archeological Society of New Jersey, Bulletin No. 8 (May, 1954), 4-5.

9. Philhower, "The Historic Minisink Country," 4-5; Schrabisch, Archeology of the Delaware River Valley Between Hancock and Dingman's Ferry in Wayne and Pike Counties (Harrisburg, 1930), pp. 145-56; and Richmond C. Holcomb, "The Early Dutch Maps of the Upper Delaware Valley," Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society 11 (1926), 24.

The routes developed by the Indians served early traders and explorers. In February, 1694 Arent Schuyler was sent from New York City by the governor to determine if there were any French in the Minisink region. Traveling via Bergentown and Hackensack he reached the mouth of the Neversink on February 6 and, the Minisink Villages, the next day. He was told that no French had been seen, but that three Christians and two Shawnees had been there six days earlier with Arnout Vielle, a resident of Albany and a well-known trader, on their way to Albany to fetch powder for Vielle. Vielle intended to beat Minisinks or Albany with 700 Shawnees the next June or July to trade beaver pelts and other furs. Satisfied that France was not infringing upon the Dutch claims, Schuyler left the village that afternoon and reached Manhattan about noon on February 10, 1694.¹⁰ From this narrative it appears Dutch traders were moving through the region of the upper Delaware well before the beginning of the 18th century. By the date of Schuyler's visit to the Minisinks, settlers from Esopus (Kingston) on the Hudson River were pushing down toward the Minisink Village. Within a few more decades they would reach the village proper.

10. Charles Stickney, A History of the Minisink Region Which Includes the Towns of Minisink, Deerpark, Mount Hope, Greenville, and Wawayanda in Orange County, New York (Middletown, 1867), pp. 15-16; and Stickney, "The Old Mine Road," a series of articles in the Wantage Recorder (Sussex, New Jersey), July 7, 1911-January 19, 1912, October 13, 1911. Cited hereafter as Stickney, "Old Mine Road," Wantage Recorder.

CHAPTER II

European Settlement Along the Old Mine Road to 1750

As early as 1613, the Dutch had established a trading post on the Hudson River at Esopus, no doubt because the Indian path from the south reached the Hudson there. Travel along this and other routes to Esopus increased during the next three decades, but it was not until 1652 that a permanent settlement was located there. In that year a small group of pioneers from the Manor of Rensselaerswyck, further up the Hudson, moved to Esopus and either purchased the land from the Indians or secured their consent to settle there. By 1658 relations between the Dutch and the Delawares had deteriorated to a point approaching open warfare. Director Peter Stuyvesant sailed up the Hudson from New York to advise and assist the inhabitants. He laid out a village on a high plateau near Rondout Kill, two miles from the Hudson, and helped the settlers build a fortified palisade.. Stuyvesant also counseled the settlers to keep their houses within the palisaded area and warned the Indians against hostile acts. He was only partly successful, for two years later, in May 1660, he despatched Claes Jansen de Ruyter to make peace with the Indians and to determine their strength. By this date there was a detachment of troops at Esopus under the command of Ensign Derck Smith. Stuyvesant visited the area during that year and was in constant communication with the settlers. The troubles between the Indians and the settlers were not over. In 1663 the natives launched an indiscriminate campaign of killing, burning, looting, and taking of hostages. A punitive expedition put down the attacks and a year later in May 1664 a treaty was signed. That same year the English captured the Dutch possessions in the New World, which the Dutch recaptured and held during 1673-74.

Again under English domination the area remained an outpost and gateway for the slow settlement of the lands southwest of Kingston. Settlement followed the fertile valleys of streams such as the Rondout,

Esopus, Wallkill, and Machackemeck and was accomplished by Dutch, French, Scandinavian, English, German, Scotch and Irish who were united by a common use of the Dutch language and the ministrations of the Dutch Reformed Church. Succeeding generations of the same families continued to settle the river valleys--the first generation settling near Kingston, the sons and grandsons pushing south along the Delaware River above Delaware Water Gap and below the junction of the Neversink with the Delaware. The families that settled along the road from Esopus to Minisink and points south intermarried, creating what is a genealogist's nightmare.¹

Blacksmith William Titsworth was the first recorded settler in the area south of the Neversink River. He arrived in 1697 upon the consent of friendly Indians. In October 1698 a petition was presented by Titsworth and Arian Rosaert on behalf of several Indian chiefs of Little Minissinck. The same day, October 10, the chiefs offered their land for sale and on October 14 Titsworth was granted a license to purchase Indian land. Titsworth remained a property holder and, for at least a portion of the next 15 years, a resident on his land near Carpenter's Point. In 1713 he sold 400 acres to Jan (John) Decker for £300, this, "being his Indian purchase and laying on a branch of Delaware River & known by the Indian name of Maghachkomack."² Titsworth moved to Dutchess County, New York.

By 1713 there were several settlers in the region between the lower end of Great Minisink Island and Carpenter's Point south of Port Jervis. In 1696 a number of families were granted permission by the

1. The above is based mainly on Donald H. McTernan, "The Esopus-Minisink Way; A Short History of the Region with an examination of the Legend of the Old Mine Road," Masters Thesis, State University of New York at Oneonta, 1969, pp. 13-23, and Edmund B. O'Callaghan, Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New York Procured in Holland, England, and France (15 Vols., Albany, 1856-1887), 13, 81-189.

2. McTernan, Esopus-Minisink Way, pp. 38-39.

governor of New York to secure deeds from the Indians and, by 1701, the population was large enough to establish a voting precinct of Minisink. Names on the rolls like Westbrook, Westfall, Van Kuykendall, Cortright, and Swartout reflected the early Dutch dominance of the region. The trade routes motivating these early settlements has been documented above. Most of these first residents settled along the Indian trails or the river. Land in parcels of a thousand acres or more continued to be sold to individuals or groups during the second decade of the century. These sales as well as many earlier ones were purely speculative and seldom did the purchasers reside on the land. The first permanent settlers along the Delaware between Port Jervis and the Water Gap were those mentioned earlier as arriving in the 1720s. In some cases they purchased the land from Indians and in others from owners or speculators. Often the settlement of the land preceded the purchase by several years.

In 1725 six lots were set out in the vicinity of Minisink Island. Each was five acres in size with an accompanying plot of 25 to 50 acres on the Island. The owners of the lots were Mathew Van Kuykendall, Anthony Westbrook, Johannis Westbrook, Jr., Jacob Van Kuykendall, Jurian Westphael, and Jan Cortright. Mathew was the son of Jacob Kuykendall, Anthony and Johannis Westbrook were brothers and Jurian Westphael was the son-in-law of Jacob Kuykendall.³ In 1730 Johannis Westbrook purchased for five pounds of New York current money one hundred acres of land to the south of Jacob Van Kuykendall's property. Johannis Westbrook appears to be the only one of the six who ever purchased land from the Indians. The others apparently had acquired theirs from some of the earlier speculators of settlers. In May 1712, Solomon Davis had bought 1000 acres, "legally purchased from the Indians" by Daniel Coxe, an English doctor who owned over 800,000 acres in New Jersey plus over half a million acres in the southern colonies. In April 1713 Thomas Stevenson, owner of West New Jersey proprietary rights, had sold 2,000 acres to six different individuals. In both

3. Stickney, "Old Mine Road," Wantage Recorder, December 22 and 29, 1911; January 5 and 12, 1912.

cases the land was part of the Minisinks.⁴ There was a constant exchange of land among the six settlers. In October 1728 Mathew Van Kuykendall sold his property to Jan Cortright and ten years later Cortright purchased John Westbrook's property in the village of Minisink. Soon after its initial settlement the village had a mill, blacksmith, tavern, and store.⁵

Further south Joseph Kirkbride located a tract of land in the Wallpack area in November, 1718, and in October, 1725, he sold a tract of over 1200 acres to Nicholas Schoonover and Thomas Brink. The property began at the point where the Flatbrook joins the Delaware and ran up the Flatbrook for a distance of four miles.⁶ To the north of this Alexander Rosenkrans and Frederick Schoonmaker purchased 900 acres opposite Shapanack Island from Joseph Crooke, Jr., of Kingston, New York for £600. Rosenkrans settled on the land in 1731, two years after its purchase, and in June of that year the land was divided between him and Schoonmaker. In 1742 Rosenkrans bought out Schoonmaker and divided the 900 acres between his two sons, Harmen and Johannis.⁷

4. A vague term that included land on either side of the Delaware River from the Water Gap to Lackawaxen, Pennsylvania. James P. Snell, History of Sussex and Warren Counties, New Jersey (Philadelphia, 1881). 1, 28.

5. The above is based on the following sources: Philhower, "Historic Minisink Site," Archeological Society of New Jersey Bulletin No. 7, pp. 7-8; Holcomb, "Early Dutch Maps of the Upper Delaware", Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society, 11, 40; G. D. Scull, "Biographical Notice of Dr. Daniel Coxe of London," The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, 7 (1883), 327; McTernan, op. cit., p. 41; and deeds from Kuykendall to Cortright and Westbrook to Cortright in Stroud Papers, Monroe County (Pennsylvania) Historical Society, Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. Typed copy in Historic Records File, Delaware Water Gap, NRA.

6. "Early History of Wallpack Township," New Jersey Herald (Newton), May 14, 1942, clipping in Sussex and Warren Counties folder, Historic Records File, Delaware Water Gap NRA, cited hereafter as DEWA.

7. Allen Rosenkrans, The Rosenkrans Family in Europe and America (Newton, 1900), pp. 52-53.

The southernmost settler in these early years was Abraham Van Campen, who, on March 8, 1732, purchased 1666 acres of land from the heirs of George Hutcheson, one of the New Jersey Proprietors. Van Campen paid £735 for the tract that ran from Poxono Island in the Delaware River to Pahaqualin Hill, a distance of seven miles, which included all the level land in the upper portion of Pahaquarry Flats.⁸ Van Campen married Susanna Depue in 1724 and probably had come to settle in the area because Susanna's brother, Nicholas, had in 1725 taken up land on the Pennsylvania side of the river opposite Pahaquarry Flats, purchasing it from the Indians two years later. Depue's home became a frontier landmark for travelers and he achieved a wide degree of fame. His brother-in-law also prospered and became well known in the vicinity. In 1739 he was appointed a justice of the peace for that portion of Morris County that lay against the river. In 1753, when Sussex was created out of Morris County, Van Campen became one of the judges of the Court of Common Pleas and served in that capacity until 1766 when he was forced into retirement by illness.

The advent of a justice of the peace at Pahaquarry testifies to the burgeoning population in the lands along the river. The same year residents of the precinct of Minisink--that area south of Carpenter's Point and running along the Jersey shore to the lower end of Minisink Island, then east to the precinct of Goshen--were taxed to build a jail at Goshen, New York. Fifty-nine names were on the tax warrant presented by Johannis Westbrook, including such familiar ones as Decker, Westbrook, Van Auken, Kuykendall, Westfall, Cortright, and Brink.⁹ Even more indicative of the

8. A. Van Doren Honeyman, ed., Northwestern New Jersey: A History of Somerset, Morris, Hunterdon, Warren, and Sussex Counties (4 Vols., New York, 1927), 2. 736. George W. Cummins, History of Warren County, New Jersey (New York, 1911), p. 224, and McTernan, Esopus-Minisink Way, p. 50 .

9. Snell, History of Sussex and Warren Counties, p. 30.

increasingly settled nature of the region was the establishment in 1737 of four Dutch Reformed Churches along the river.

Dutch Reformed ministers had visited settlers along the Delaware as early as 1714. The "Baptismal and Marriage Register of the Old Dutch Church of Kingston, Ulster County, New York" shows two baptisms in Menssing (Minisink) on January 19 and on September 29 of that year. On June 8 of the following year, two additional baptisms appear on the register. On August 16, 1716, Rev. Petrus Vas traveled down the road from Kingston and held services in Wallpack, baptizing three persons. He returned on January 5, 1717, and on January 29, 1718, baptizing four and five people during the two visits. Between 1718 and 1733 there is no record of visits by any of the ministers stationed at Kingston.¹⁰ During the interlude it may be assumed that residents traveled to Kingston for baptisms and after 1732 or 1733 George W. Mancius, pastor of the Dutch Reformed Church at Kingston and a colleague of Vas, began making periodic trips to the settlements along the Delaware. Records from the year 1733 alone show the Rev. Mancius baptizing 22 persons at Menssing. By 1737 Mancius believed that there was sufficient interest to support four churches along the 50-mile axis. The first to be established was at Smithfield in Pennsylvania; those at Machackemeck (Port Jervis), Minisink, and Wallpack followed in rapid succession.¹¹

Rev. Mancius continued to visit the four churches every six months to hold services and administer the sacraments. The consistories, or governing bodies, of the four congregations realized the need of a permanent

10. Records of the Minisink Valley Reformed Dutch Church, published in the Collections of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, Vol. V (New York, 1913).

11. Records of the Reformed Dutch Church at Smithfield, Pennsylvania in Collections of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, Vol. VIII (New York, 1928), p. 87.

minister and selected a young man of 16 or 17 with the rudiments of a liberal education, John Casperus Fryenmoet or Fryenmuth. They raised £125.12.6 or about \$314. to aid him in completing his education. He traveled to Kingston to study under Rev. Mancius and after four years was ordained by Mancius.¹² He began his work on June 1, 1741 in the Dutch Reformed Church at Smithfield, Monroe County, Pennsylvania and served that Church until 1743. Each of the four churches established by Rev. Mancius agreed to pay him £17.10s plus 25 schepels, or slightly over 18 bushels of oats a year. This agreement proved very satisfactory to the young minister. At the end of the first year the consistories of Machackemeck and Port Jervis offered him an increase in salary from £35 to £40 on the condition that he marry. On June 18, 1742, Fryenmuth and Linda Van Etten were married by Justice of the Peace Abraham Van Campen

12. There is conflict among various authors on this point. Some state he made the two long voyages to Holland and was ordained by the Classis of Amsterdam, while others contend he was ordained in Kingston, New York. Charles E. Stickney in his series in the Wantage Recorder (October 27, 1911) states that Fryenmuth's ordination by Mancius in 1741 was criticized by some of the church members who wrote to Amsterdam seeking a more legal ordination. The Classis there agreed that a trip across the Atlantic was not needed if he was examined by seven of the churches in the ecclesiastical assembly and found satisfactory. This was done and on December 15, 1744, he was ordained by Mancius in the presence of two other ministers. Stickney, quoting William H. Nearpass, church historian, states that Fryenmuth added a note to baptisms performed prior to December 15, 1744, as being done "unlawfully", but after that date his "lawful ministry" began. See also Snell, 1, 327 and 366; Pauline Knickerbocker Angell, Fifty Years on the Frontier with the Dutch Congregation at Maghaghkamik (Port Jervis, 1937), p. 11; and Eva Alice Scott, Some Ten Generations in America of Jacobus Jansen Van Etten (Youngstown, Ohio, 1950), pp. 32, 35.

in his home near Pahaquarry.¹³ Fryenmuth served the churches at Minisink, Wallpack, and Machackemeck from 1744 to 1756 when the increasing threat of Indian warfare forced him to flee. He ultimately settled near Kinderhook, or Livingston Manor, New York where he remained until his death in 1778. One of his sermons written in Greek, Latin, and Dutch survives in the archives of the Minisink Historical Society.¹⁴

Four years passed before Rev. Thomas Romeyn arrived in April, 1760 to serve as minister to the three churches--Smithfield withdrew in 1753. Romeyn took as his second wife Susanna Van Campen, a daughter of Abraham Van Campen. He remained in the region until 1772 when he departed for Montgomery County, New York. During his tenure, the New Jersey-New York boundary dispute reached a climax and was resolved, in 1772. Thirteen years after the end of the Revolutionary War Rev. Van. Benschoten came to the area. During his ministry the church at Port Jervis, burned by Jacob Brant in 1779, was rebuilt. Rev. Van. Benschoten also served the people of Wantage Township, establishing a Dutch Reformed church there. In 1792 he moved to Clove Valley in Wantage Township but continued to serve the Delaware Valley churches. After seven years he withdrew from this service and devoted full time to the churches of Wantage Township. Benschoten is

13. Stickney, "Old Mine Road," Wantage Recorder (October 27, 1911). Samuel W. Mills, Reformed Dutch Church of Wallpack: Historical Discourse Preached at the Dedication of the Reformed Church at Bushkill, Pennsylvania, January 13, 1874 (Ellenville, New York, 1874); page 609 describes Fryenmuth's ministry and states he was paid 70 pounds and 300 pecks of oats by the four churches.

14. William H. Nearpass, ed., Old Dutch Records of the Machackemeck and Menissinck Churches, J. B. Ten Eyck, translator (Port Jervis, 1899), pp. 113-16; Mills, Reformed Dutch Church of Wallpack, pp. 6-9; and Stickney, "Old Mine Road," Wantage Recorder (November 3, 1911).

best remembered for the \$17,000. he contributed toward a scholarship at Rutgers University for training ministers. He conducted his services in both Dutch and English. With the arrival of the Rev. John Demerest, English became the dominant language. Demerest stayed only four years and departed in 1806. It would be ten years before another permanent pastor was assigned. By this time, Wallpack had withdrawn leaving only Minisink and Port Jervis.¹⁵

Soon after the establishment of the four congregations in 1737 each built a house of worship. The Port Jervis and Minisink churches were both crude log structures. Situated on the Old Mine Road, the Minisink Church cost 28 dollars to construct, was thirty feet square with hard benches as pews, and lacked a stove. The first mention of a new church places it a half-mile north of the famous brick house hotel in Montague, indicating that the original church served for as long as 60 years. Built in 1827, the new church at Minisink lasted until the end of the century when the present church was constructed directly in front of it. This structure, dedicated in 1899, is still standing. The Wallpack church was built between 1737 and 1740 on land deeded by Thomas Brink and Nicholas Schoonover. A second church, constructed about a half-mile up river after the close of the Revolution, served until 1819. The third church was built by the German Reformed Church on the site of the first structure and was shared by the Dutch Reformed Congregation. A fourth building was erected in 1855, again on the same site. The church at Smithfield, like the others, was a simple log structure. By 1752 the Presbyterians, with their new stone church, were beginning to draw away the congregation, and the last records from the

15. Nearpass, Dutch Records of Machackemeck and Menissinck Churches, pp. 117-25; Mills, Reformed Dutch Church of Wallpack, pp. 9-10; Stickney, "Old Mine Road," Wantage Recorder (November 3 and 11, 1911); and Edward A. Webb, Sussex County Historical Directory (Andover, 1872), p. 65.

Dutch Reformed Church date from 1807.¹⁶ In addition to the original four, a fifth church was built at Shapanack, near the island and fort of the same name, on land donated by John Rosenkrans. An octagonal log structure, it lasted until 1826 when it was abandoned.¹⁷ A parsonage was also built for Fryenmuth on a hill overlooking Nomanock Island on part of Cornelius Westbrook's farm and near the site of Fort Nomanock which had been built during the French and Indian War. Constructed about 1745, the parsonage burned within ten years. A second parsonage was built on the same site that served until about 1838. With the dissolution of the four churches the site was sold as a single charge in 1800 and each of the three surviving congregations received one-third of the profit. Originally, each of the four churches had paid £17.10s toward the construction of the parsonage. The cornerstone of the parsonage is part of the James Fuller house in Sandyston Township, Sussex County.¹⁸

Other religious denominations that were present along the middle Delaware prior to the 1760's were the Moravians and, as already noted, the Presbyterians. In 1742 the Moravian missionary County Nicholas Ludwig Zinzendorf traveled through the New Jersey settlements above the Water Gap. The previous year County Zinzendorf had founded the colony of Moravian

16. The Reformed Dutch Church Records and the Presbyterian Church Records at Smithfield, Pa., from the Collections of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, Vol. VIII (New York, 1928), 109.

17. Snell, History of Sussex and Warren Counties 1: 328-29; Mills Reformed Dutch Church of Wallpack, pp. 23-25; Stickney, "Old Mine Road," Wantage Recorder, November 3, 1911; and R. W. Blasberg and J. Everitt, Two and One Quarter Centuries on Old Mine Road: History of Minisink Reformed Church, 1737-1969 (no place of publication, c. 1962), pp. 2, 10, 14.

18. Snell, History of Sussex and Warren Counties, pp. 1 and 29, and Stickney, "Old Mine Road," Wantage Recorder (November 3, 1911).

brethren at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. He had been an active friend, supporter, and protector of the Moravian brethren in his native Germany as well as in England, Holland, Estonia, and Livonia. The purpose of the 1742 journey was to visit among the Indians of the six nations in the region around Rhinebeck, New York.¹⁹ Accompanying Zinzendorf were his daughter Beninna, Anton Seyffert, an elder of the Bethlehem Church, and Anna Nitschmann. Leaving Bethlehem, the party blazed a trail through Tots Gap in the Blue Mountains and on the evening of August 11 reached the home of Nicholas Depue. After spending the night the party, augmented by Depue's son, crossed the river and attended church eleven miles to the north, probably at Wallpack. Zinzendorf, displaying little of the ecumenical spirit, complained in his diary of having to listen to two wearying sermons and, despite efforts to avoid discussion with Fryenmuth by retiring to the woods to read Josephus, found himself "annoyed with questions and remarks" by the good Dominie. Fryenmuth also rode with the party for several hours in the afternoon. They pushed on the next day after stopping for the night in the Village of Minisink, 19 miles from Wallpack. On August 14 they reached Esopus, crossed the Hudson and by noon were in Rhinebeck continuing on to the Indian village of Shecomeco, the terminus of the journey. Late in August they returned to Bethlehem, staying at Minisink on the 27th, crossing the Delaware on the 28th, probably near Depue's home, and reaching Nazareth, Pennsylvania the next day. By August 31 Zinzendorf was back in Bethlehem.²⁰

19. Zinzendorf had secured permission from the leaders of the six tribes earlier that year through the offices of Conrad Weiser, noted pioneer in Indian relations. Elma Gray, Wilderness Christians: The Moravian Mission to the Delaware Indians (Ithaca, 1956), p. 32.

20. William C. Reichel, ed., Memorials of the Moravian Church (Philadelphia, 1870), pp. 48-53, reproduces and annotates Zinzendorf's diary. See also Benjamin M. Brink, "Count Zinzendorf in Old Ulster," Olde Ulster 3 (July, 1907), pp. 203-04.

The Moravians established a school at Wallpack which lasted one year. During 1746-47 Joseph Shaw, the Moravian missionary, not only taught school but on several occasions preached in the churches at Wallpack and Minisink. He lost his wife while at Wallpack and Shaw himself was lost at sea in October 1747 while on his way to do mission work at St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands.²¹

Public education was a late arrival in the narrow strip of land along the Delaware River. Presumably students were either educated at home or sent away to school during the years before 1800. One exception was the school conducted by William Ennis, who arrived in Sandyston Township about 1753. In Montague Township Johannis Westbrook gave land for a school building in 1731, but the school was not begun until after 1800. Built of logs, it was located near the residence of Jacob Hornbeck. Other schools followed. A log structure of relatively the same vintage was located a mile from Millville. After the Rev. Joseph Shaw left Wallpack in 1747 there was no further attempt at public schooling until 1813 when a school was opened in a log cabin along River Road. Within a few years schools were operating near Flatbrookville and Wallpack Center. Pahaquarry Township in Warren County, where settlement was limited to a narrow strip between the river and the mountains, did not have a schoolhouse until 1839. The first school at Millbrook was started in 1840-41 in the basement of the Methodist Church.²²

While settlement along the New Jersey side of the river proceeded slowly, the valley served as a thoroughfare from the mid-Hudson River settlements to points south of the forks of the Delaware. In this capacity

21. Mills, Reformed Dutch Church of Wallpack: Historical Discourse, p. 9, and Snell, History of Sussex and Warren Counties, 1, 325.

22. Snell, History of Sussex and Warren Counties, 1: 325, 365-66, 421, and 2: 699-700; Honeyman, Northwestern New Jersey, 1: 497-98; and "Early History Wallpack Township," New Jersey Herald (Newton), May 28, 1942.

the most famous road of the area was the Old Mine Road, which folklore attributes to Dutch miners in the region prior to 1660.

The story of the Old Mine Road is as follows. About 1650 Dutch traders discovered copper in the mountains above Pahaquarry Flats. A group of miners came down from Kingston to develop and operate the mine. In order to reap a profit from the mine it was necessary to get the copper ore from the mine site to a smelter. To this end they constructed a road from Kingston to the Pahaquarry mines, a distance of 104 miles. The road ran via Hurley, Marbletown and Wawarsing to the Neversink River, down the west bank via Ellenville to Port Jervis. It then recrossed the Neversink and continued down the east side of the Delaware via Minisink, Montague and Wallpack Center to the Pahaquarry Flats.²³ The mine was operated for several years, but was abandoned in 1664 when the English captured the Dutch holdings in the New World. It was then forgotten for a century and a half. The road that the Dutch had built remained and settlers entering the area in the 1720's followed it from Kingston to Minisink and points south.

Several questions are immediately raised by the tale. First, if the copper deposit was rich enough to warrant the building of a road in the 1650's why would the Dutch give it up less than 15 years later without a struggle. Most of the Dutch settlers did not permit the change in administration to drastically affect their business activities. Second, even if the mine was not worked for two generations the knowledge of it, assuming the miners were from the Kingston area, would not have died out. Yet no record of any mining activity exists during the final two-thirds of the 17th century. Finally none of the early travelers in the region

23. Present route 209 follows the Old Mine Road as far as Port Jervis, but south of there 209 remains on the Pennsylvania side of the river.

make mention of a road existing nor is reference made to a mine road before 1800 in the road returns for Sussex County.

The question of the Old Mine Road is a crucial one to the development of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. In a region that possesses few items of major historic importance the possibility that there was once an active mine and a 104-mile road constructed to that mine at least 40 years before 1700 is an exciting one. The topic has been explored at length by Donald H. McTernan in a Master's thesis done in 1969. I have rechecked McTernan's major references and what follows is a summary of his findings, as well as some additional comments by this writer.²⁴

The genesis of the story is an account printed in Hazards Register of Pennsylvania, Vol. 1 (1828), pp. 439-40. It consists of two letters from Samuel Preston to the editor. The first recounts the experiences of John Lukens in 1730 as told to Preston 57 years later when Lukens was surveyor-general of Pennsylvania and Preston his deputy. Lukens, as an apprentice to Nicholas Scull in 1730, visited the middle Delaware Valley and encountered many Hollanders, some of whom could speak only the Indian language. Lukens was impressed with the size of Samuel Depue's apple trees, for they were larger than any existing in Philadelphia. Samuel told them that when the river was frozen, "he had a good road to Esopus from the Mine Holes on the Mine Road some hundred miles." Depue also noted that he traded at Esopus or Kingston and had little knowledge of Philadelphia. From these comments Scull and Lukens decided that the first settlements of the Dutch in the "Meenesink" were "many years older than William Penn's charter" which was granted in 1681 by Charles II.

24. McTernan did his thesis at the State University of New York College at Oneonta. It is entitled "The Esopus-Minisink Way: A Short History of the Region with an Examination of the Legend of the 'Old Mine Road'."

Samuel Preston's second letter, dated June 14, 1828, states that he was dispatched by Lukens in 1787 to learn more about the mine road to Esopus as well as other matters. Preston visited Nicholas Depue, son of Samuel, and was told that Nicholas--in his sixties in 1787--had driven over the mine road several times each winter with loads of wheat or cider for Esopus. Many of Nicholas Depue's neighbors had done the same. The practice had ceased after Foul Rift was bypassed.²⁵ They then went south to Philadelphia with their products. When Depue was asked for details about when, and by whom, the mine road was built and the type of ore hauled over it, he was able only to repeat what others had told him--traditional accounts, in the words of Preston. As reproduced by Preston the account is vague and sprinkled with supposed or understood facts, revolving about unspecific dates and rich or great people who built the road and worked the mines. Other individuals with whom Preston talked were, like Depue, grandsons of the first settlers. They offered stories similar to his, and, "all. . . generally very illiterate as to dates or anything relating to chronology." In the final paragraphs of the letter Preston recounts that in 1789 he discussed the matter with two venerable gentlemen, one the father of DeWitt Clinton. They were both of the belief that the mines and road had been built by the Dutch prior to 1664 and that the change of government stopped the mining. The road was, in the belief of both General James Clinton and Mr. Tappan, the first good road of that capacity made in any part of the United States. Preston himself felt that the Minisink settlement (Depue's farm) was the oldest European settlement in Pennsylvania.

Preston's report is subject to question on several points--a major one being the distance of the reporter from the event. Preston received Luken's account of his visit to the Minisink region more than half a century after the fact and another 40 years passed before Preston compiled

25. Foul Rift is located south of Belvidere, New Jersey.

the information for Hazard's Register. This is placing considerable faith in the memory of man, let alone in that of a septugenarian, which Preston would have been when the report was published. Even more damaging to the credibility of Luken's story was the fact that Lukens was born in 1729-- a year before the events he claimed to have participated in. McTernan theorizes that either Lukens visited the Minisink area and weaved his own experiences together with information he had once heard about an early surveying trip, or that Preston's account was inaccurate.²⁶

Interestingly, there is no evidence of a surveying expedition to the region in 1730, but there was an expedition dispatched in 1727 to investigate reports of land purchases by two individuals, one of whom was doubtless Nicholas Depue, "near the Minnesinks beyond Pechoqualin Hills". The party, which included Nicholas Scull, went less to prosecute the purchasers of the land than to establish William Penn's sovereignty over that region. The area did not come into the ownership of the Penn family until ten years later, with the Walking Purchase. Presumably Scull may have told Lukens of this trip; Lukens, confusing the dates, told Preston; and Preston after nearly 40 years wrote the account.²⁷

From the above it would appear that all the accounts of the Old Mine Road based on this initial story by Preston are set on very weak foundations. The next question is, what was the source of the road that the settlers followed from the middle Delaware Valley to Kingston? The simplest and most logical explanation is that, as they moved south and west from Kingston, the first settlers followed the Indian trail that ran from the future site of Minisink to Kingston. As traffic increased the

26. McTernan, Esopus-Minisink Way, p. 92.

27. Ibid., pp. 93-100.

trail evolved into a road capable of handling carts or wagons. An absolute date for the "establishment" of such a road is hard to determine. Mr. McTernan makes a good case for it not existing prior to 1700, but becoming an established landmark by 1728 when it is mentioned in an indenture for a tract of land near Rochester, later Accord, New York.²⁸

In April 1743 a petition was filed by "the inhabitants of magohomek, manisink and the Lower parts thereof", complaining that the road they had used to transport their produce for "the space of thurty Jears or moor", and which had been laid out by proper persons, had been blocked; they were being forced to use another route which was very poor and made transportation of their grain extremely difficult. They requested to be allowed the use of the old road until a new one could be laid out. Twenty signatures were affixed to the petition, including those of many who were connected with the Minisink settlement. Harman Rosenkrans of Shapanack was the southernmost settler to sign the petition. Abraham Van Campen's name does not appear. The existence of a road from a point some distance south of Port Jervis to the Hudson, for at least 30 years before 1743, seems fairly certain.²⁹ McTernan notes that the three road commissioners of Ulster County, New York, mentioned in the petition had held their posts from 1715 to 1721. This would indicate that at about this period an Esopus-Minisink way was laid out by these road commissioners.

How far south of the junction of the Neversink and the Delaware the road extended is not known. In 1719 a surveying expedition charged with running a boundary line from a point at 41°40' on the Upper Delaware to the Hudson, as well as determining the boundary between East and West Jersey, visited the area. John Reading, Jr., one of the commissioners, had been in the region four years earlier. He and his companions had visited the area of Pahaquarry Flats and found no evidence of settlement.

28. McTernan, Esopus-Minisink Way, pp. 103-04.

29. Ibid., pp. 105-7.

In 1719 Reading and his five companions traveled west from near present-day Somerville, New Jersey, past what was to be Blairstown and through Catfish Gap to the Pahaquarry Flats. After spending the night of June 23 fighting mosquitos at their campsite they turned up-river. The first two-and-a-half miles were relatively smooth lowlands, but then the going got rough and for an equal distance the party struggled over nearly impassable country: the hills came very close to the river and at points the party was forced to wade in the river. Eventually, the five reached the mouth of the Flatbrook and an Indian village. Here they inquired about the best route to the village of Minisink. They were instructed to cross into Pennsylvania and travel up the west bank. Guided by an Indian they did so, following an "indifferently good" path that took them the final 20 miles to the Minisinks. They then recrossed the river to the village.³⁰

From the village the party continued up the east bank of the Delaware to Solomon Davis's home where they encountered a wagon path that went north to the Mahackamack or Neversink River. This is the first mention by Reading of any wagon road or path. If there had been a road up the Jersey shore from the Pahaquarry Flats, Reading would surely have followed it or at least noted its existence.

One final point which supports the general conclusion that the Old Mine Road was an early 18th-century creation rather than a 17th-century fact is the absence of the term, Mine Road, or Old Mine Road. Road returns for Sussex County dating from approximately 1760 make no mention of either the Mine Road or the Old Mine Road in reference to any north-south routes along or near the river. The term River Road, Great Road, Kingston Road or some other designation is used. McTernan comments that he did not encounter this term in any of the material he used on the

30. McTernan, Esopus-Minisink Way, pp. 108-13. "Copy of Journal of John Reading," New Jersey Historical Society Proceedings 10 (1915), 94-95.

Esopus-Minisink Way. Generally the road to Esopus was called just that. Detailed maps of the region are scarce prior to the middle of the 18th century. The road systems are shown, but only occasionally named. Routes along the Delaware are shown on either bank and often swing away from the river rather than paralleling it. The routes may also switch from side to side at fords or ferries. This also points to the conclusion that if a developed road had existed in 1660 it would not have been eroded so totally as to be lost completely by 1720 when the first settlers came into the region.

If we accept the conclusion that no road was built by the Dutch prior to the 1660's, then the story of their mining at Pahaquarry Flats is also doubtful. There is, however, geological evidence of copper in the region which leaves open the possibility of mines in the region at an early date.

The belief that the Dutch were mining minerals in the area is based on several scattered pieces of correspondence. The first, from April 22, 1659, is addressed to Vice-Director Alrichs at New Amstel on the Delaware River, now the site of New Castle, Delaware. It referred to the possibility that there were minerals to be discovered in New Netherland and recounted an interview with Claes de Ruyter. De Ruyter described a crystal mountain existing between New Castle and Manhattan Island which contained a gold mine. The Dutch West India Company, parent organization to the settlers in New Amsterdam, also had some copper ore. De Ruyter assured them that there was no copper mine on the South (Delaware) River. Directors of the Dutch West India Company asked Alrich to investigate. Three days later a similar letter was sent to Peter Stuyvesant at New Amsterdam. This time there was no question that the mineral they sought was copper; de Ruyter had told them that a copper mine was said to be in the Navesinks. He also repeated the story of the crystal mountain. According to the Directors, when de Ruyter returned to New Amsterdam he would provide Stuyvesant with additional details.

On July 23 Stuyvesant replied, expressing astonishment at de Ruyter's report. He gave several reasons why an expedition to locate the mine would not be feasible, including a lack of time, the distance of the areas, and the inappropriateness of the season as the region was covered with high brush. Stuyvesant promised to investigate later that fall or early the next spring. Unfortunately no other correspondence on the subject has been located.³¹ De Ruyter returned to the New World and was active as a translator and ambassador to the Indians in and about Esopus, but whatever he knew of either crystal mountains or copper mines was either not put down on paper or has not survived.

Many assume that the reference to the Nevesinks in the letter to Stuyvesant refers to the Neversink River that flows into the Delaware below Port Jervis. This river, however, was known as the Mahackamack, or some variation of that spelling, until the beginning of the American Revolution, when the designation Neversink first appears. There is another area of New Jersey that has a similar name. Known as the highlands of Navesink or the Atlantic Highlands, it lies just south of Sandy Hook and was the terminus of an early Indian trail from the Minisink region. This area was known as the Nevesings, or some variation, as early as 1650, when reference was made to a piece of land on a bay of the Hudson River five leagues from Sandy Hook called Neyswesinck possessing good farm or grazing lands. In 1663 the Dutch moved to purchase the Nevesings from the Indians to prevent it from falling into the hands of the English who had visited the area in a barge on the night of December 5, 1663. On January 28, 1664, a redoubt was built at Neuesings to prevent people from Gravesend, Long Island from settling there.³²

31. Edmund B. O'Callaghan, Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New York Procured in Holland, England, and France (15 Vols., Albany, 1856-87), 2, 63-64; 13, 99-100.

32. O'Callaghan, Documents Relative to the Colonial History of New York, 1, 366 and 13, 311-12, and McTernan, Esopus-Minisink Way, pp. 62-63.

The possibility of copper on the seacoast at Navesink is not so remote, for the first big copper mine in New Jersey was located near North Arlington on the Passaic River north of Newark and about 30 miles on a straight line from the Navesink region. Except for the deposit at Pahaquarry all of the known Jersey copper mines are located in the Triassic formation of red sandstone which lies in the eastern portion of New Jersey. Several of the better known mines are in Somerset County near the Raritan River.³³

The first reference to copper in the Minisink, discounting Dutch activity in the area before 1664, was made by Dr. Daniel Coxe, an owner of large tracts of land in New Jersey: the Minisinke Province contained a "number and goodness of ye mines and mettalls of Lead and Copper and diverse usefull mineralls doe abundantly Compensate [the lack of arable land]." Since Coxe hoped to sell his land holdings he may have "made a good pitch" based on great expectations and the reports of his agents, as he had never visited the region.³⁴ After this mention of minerals in the Minisinks 80 years were to pass before another indirect reference was made to the presence of minerals in the vicinity.

In 1769 Richard Smith, a Quaker land speculator and brother of Samuel Smith, descended the Delaware by canoe. Thirty-five miles above Trenton he lodged with Edward Marshall, who had been one of the three walkers of the Walking Purchase. Marshall told Smith and his companions of two lakes on top of the Blue Mountains a mile above the Water Gap on the Jersey side. The mountains held a spring from which oozed a scum that when burnt yielded a red or brown paint. Marshall believed the source of this to be a large bed of copper ore and that there were several

33. Harry B. and Grace Weiss, The Old Copper Mines of New Jersey (Trenton, 1963), p. 2, and Herbert P. Woodward, Copper Mines and Mining in New Jersey, Bulletin 57, Geologic Series, Department of Conservation and Development, State of New Jersey (Trenton, 1944), plate 1.

34. G. D. Scull, "Biographical Notice of Dr. Daniel Coxe of London," The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, 7 (1883), 331, and McTernan, Esopus-Minisink Way, p. 68.

cartloads of paint on the spot.³⁵ In his History of Nova-Caesaria published in 1765, Samuel Smith commented that Paoqualin Hill supposedly contained valuable ore and that the river flats at the base were excellent land and held a few plantations.³⁶ Supporting Edward Marshall's description was an announcement in the Pennsylvania Chronicle of August 24 and 31, 1767, of the public sale of Richard Reading's estate, including his share of a certain copper mine at Wallpack Township, which at that time extended from Delaware Water Gap to the present New York State line.³⁷

Eighty years passed and any mines at Pahaquarry lay idle. On March 9, 1848, the Pahaquarry Mining Company was incorporated under the laws of New Jersey by James N. Reading, possibly a descendent of Richard Reading, and four others with a capital stock of not more than \$200,000. Whether any mining actually occurred remains unclear as this was a period of rampant speculation. Twelve years later a Philadelphia interest, The Allegheny Mining Company (possibly the same group), cleaned out the workings and had some ore samples assayed, finding them to be only 39% copper and too poor to work profitably. In 1868 the mine was the property of a Mr. Keyser of Hainesburg, New Jersey, who had briefly and unsuccessfully opened it in 1867. By that period there were several old tunnels, including one 150 feet long, plus an inclined shaft. For 30 years the mines were inactive. The final attempt to make them into a paying proposition occurred between 1901 and 1911.

In 1900 Philip Godley of Philadelphia sold 1,028 acres of land, including mine sites, to the Montgomery Gold Leaf Mining Company of

35. Richard Smith, A Tour of Four Great Rivers: The Hudson, Mohawk, Susquehanna, and Delaware in 1769, ed. by F. W. Halsey (New York, 1906), 79.

36. Samuel Smith, The History of the Colony of Nova-Caesaria, or New Jersey, 2nd ed. (Trenton, 1877), p. 500.

37. As cited in Weiss, Old Copper Mines of New Jersey, p. 85.

Belvidere, New Jersey. Prospecting and experimentation went on through 1903 and, at several points, the company dug new crosscuts. A new tunnel said to be 240 feet in length was dug near the level of the Delaware River. By 1905, 100,000 tons of ore had been removed and that year a mill was constructed to treat the siliceous ore by a process patented by Dr. N. S. Keith, the company metallurgist. Meanwhile, stock was sold to residents of the area. In 1906 the Pahaquarry Mining Company replaced the Montgomery Company as owner of the mine. Two years later the company was involved in re-equipping the mill, apparently because Keith's system was deficient. During 1909 the works were closed for installation of a pumping system, electrification of the plant, and the addition of a flotation system and a large ore dryer. In 1911 the mine operated for three months and the 200-ton concentrating mill for two months. No concentrates were shipped as the ore broke too finely for profitable extraction by the process used. Finally, the company went into receivership after spending \$275,000 for mining facilities and leaving \$100,000 in liabilities. It was taken over by the Delaware Valley Exploration Company--Philip Godley, President. The plant was eventually dismantled and the property given to the Boy Scouts of America--George Washinton Council--for use as a summer camp.

The 1868 evaluation by the State Geologist was borne out: "From all that could be learned of previous operations at this point, and from all the appearances about the mine now, there is no inducement to warrant further outlays of capital in developing a paying copper mine."³⁸

Today the evidence of the various mining operations is still visible in the hills above the river flats. Park Historian Albert Dillahunt and

38. George H. Cook, Geology of New Jersey (Newark, 1868), p. 680. The history of the mines from 1848 forward is based on the above and S. Keith, "Copper Deposits of New Jersey," Mining Magazine, 13 (May, 1906), 473-74; Woodward, Copper Mines and Mining in New Jersey, pp. 129-30, and 143; Weiss, Old Copper Mines of New Jersey, pp. 85-87; and McTernan, Esopus-Minisink Way, pp. 72-74.

I visited one of the larger tunnels. This tunnel extends back about 100 feet; it then turns left and right, forming a T. The left arm is less than 20 feet and the right is about 50 feet in length. Many of the buildings erected during the last mining venture have been removed and the remaining ones have been modified to serve the needs of the Boy Scout Camp. In fall 1971 the Scouts were preparing to abandon the site, which will be partially inundated on completion of the Tocks Island Dam.

The copper mine and the Old Mine Road are linked together as part of the folklore of the early settlement of this region which, beginning about 1700, had made considerable progress by 1750. Then, for nearly a third of a century, it slowed and in some cases retreated as Indian Wars and then the Revolutionary War affected the area.

CHAPTER III

Indian Wars and The American Revolution on the Upper Delaware

Relations between the Delaware Indians and the Dutch settlers moving down the road from Kingston into the Delaware Valley were good. Most of the Indians had left the region by 1730, as the Dutch settled on the Delaware, New York emigrants moved into central New Jersey, and Swedes and Quakers from Philadelphia took up land in South Jersey. Indians still came to trade and barter with the residents along the river and many of the settlers became adept in the language of the Delawares. The land across the river from the Minisink settlements remained in the possession of the Delawares until the mid-1730's when William Penn's sons determined to acquire the remainder of the land promised their father in his 1686 treaty with the tribesmen.

The treaty provided that Penn or his descendants would claim all the land they could walk across in three days. Penn, observing the Indian customs wherein a day's walk provided for stops to smoke and eat, walked a day and a half with them, then stated that he had all the land he needed. He proposed that they walk the remaining day and a half later. In 1734 his sons decided to claim the remainder of the purchase and to this end searched out the fastest, most expert walkers in the province. In 1737 the Indian representatives and the three men selected--Edward Marshall, James Yeates, and Solomon Jennings--assembled near present-day Wrightstown, Pennsylvania, in Bucks County. At sunrise the whites strode off at a brisk pace. The Indians, assuming the whites would not get beyond the Lehigh River, suddenly became aware of their intention. After repeatedly complaining of the pace, which was almost a trot, the Indians dropped out at the end of the first day in disgust. At sunset the walkers stopped. Only Marshall and Yeates were left, as Jennings had collapsed that afternoon. The walk resumed in the morning and at noon Marshall staggered to a halt on a spur of Broad Mountain near Albrightsville, Pennsylvania, which

lies from 2 to 3 miles east of the present East Mauch Chunk. He had covered between 60 and 65 miles. From there the surveyors ran the line northeastward to the junction of Lackawaxen Creek with the Delaware, ignoring the provision that the line was to run to the nearest point on the Delaware River.¹ Gained were all of the Indian lands along the river as well as the enmity of the Delawares.

For nearly 20 years the Delawares, residing in western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio, nursed their bitterness against the English who had cheated them and especially against those who now lived on the lands that once had been theirs. With the beginnings of the French and Indian War in 1755 the Delawares, encouraged by the French, took their revenge. Soon they were back in their ancestral lands raiding, burning, and killing from Easton on the south to Orange County, New York, on the north. Across the river lay Sussex County, New Jersey, newly created from Morris County to the east. Though relations had been good between New Jersey and the Indians, a fear was abroad that the Indians might cross over and begin to ravage farms and homes in Sussex County.

Abraham Van Campen, now a colonel commanding the Sussex County Militia, wrote to Governor Johnathan Belcher of New Jersey on November 7, 1755, expressing his fear of Indian depredations. Belcher replied four days later and approved Van Campen's suggestion that he, Van Campen, cross over into Pennsylvania to repel the attackers before they reached New Jersey. The next day he modified the order, requesting Col. Van Campen to be ready to march immediately to the borders of "this province or that of Pennsylvania upon the most sudden notice by the enemy, for the aid and relief of his majesty's subjects." Belcher was also in constant

1. Stickney, "Old Mine Road," Wantage Recorder, August, 4, 1911.

communication with Governor Robert Hunter Morris of Pennsylvania who kept him informed of the continuing raids within that province. As a result of this information and, possibly spurred on by letters from militia leaders in addition to Van Campen, Belcher prodded the New Jersey legislature into appropriating £10,000 to protect the province from the Indians. Out of this amount four blockhouses were to be erected in Sussex County. Arms, munitions, accouterments and salaries were also to be deducted from the fund. The location of the blockhouses was left to the discretion of Van Campen and Captain Richard Gardner of the Sussex County Militia.²

The four sites selected were Fort Reading, twelve miles above Easton in the modern town of Belvidere, Fort Van Campen on the property of Colonel Van Campen, Fort Wallpack next to the present day Lower Wallpack Cemetery, and Fort Nominock, or Nomanock, opposite the island of the same name. Early in 1756 Governor Belcher appointed John Johnston and John Stevens to design and construct the four forts. Belcher's plan was to locate the forts within sight of each other, but the mountainous terrain and heavy forestation made this impossible. Rather, additional forts were added to the original four blockhouses. The exact date of construction for each is not known. By October, 1757 there were seven fortified positions along the Delaware from Fort Reading to Fort Gardiner north of Port Jervis.³

2. Snell, History of Sussex and Warren Counties, 1: 424-25, 434. Theodore Brush of Newton, New Jersey has done an excellent study of the subject. Much of what follows is based on his unpublished manuscript which he so generously loaned me: Brush, "Blockhouses of the New Jersey Frontier, 1755-1783" (1971), pp. 4-5 and 10A. Cited hereafter as Brush, "Blockhouses N. J. Frontier."

3. In the course of a most informative conversation with Ted Brush on September 28, 1971, he gave me a copy of Jonathan Hampton's directive to John Reading of October, 1757 to inform Lord Loudoun of the location and condition of the forts. Seven locations are discussed in the letter and shown on the accompanying map. The original of the 1757 map and letter is in the Loudoun Papers, Huntington Library, San Marino, Calif.

During the initial emergency the garrisoning and supplying of the sites was carefully organized. Two hundred fifty men were enlisted to serve for one month, or until they were replaced by new recruits. Each of the four blockhouses was garrisoned by 60 men. Privates received 2 shillings a month while lieutenants, captains and majors earned 3, 4, and 6 shillings respectively. The ration for each soldier was distributed by Johnathan Hampton, Quartermaster and Paymaster. It included 7 pounds of bread, 7 of beef or pork, 6 ounces of butter, 3 pints of peas and a half pound of rice, per week. As an extra inducement, soldiers were exempt from arrest for debts of less than £15. By fall of 1756 the threat had subsided and the volunteers returned to their homes.⁴

The forts were built of logs or boards with roofs of white pine or chestnut shingles. Most of those erected, including the original four, were palisaded and contained a large house and several smaller structures. In October, 1757 Johnathan Hampton prepared a report on the forts for Governor John Reading of New Jersey to forward to Lord Loudoun, then commanding the English forces in America. Van Kamps or Van Campen's Fort, included a 20-foot-square blockhouse, a stone dwelling 60 x 22 feet, and a small log house--the whole enclosed in a palisade about 65 feet square. The Van Campen family resided in the stone dwelling. Nine miles north was the fort at Wallpack with a 50-foot-square palisade enclosing a wooden church (the Dutch Reformed Church built about 1740) and a small blockhouse. There were no permanent residents. Fort Nominock, 17 miles from Wallpack, was described as similar to Fort Van Campen, including a family in residence.

4. Brush, "Blockhouses N. J. Frontier," p. 11; Stickney, "Old Mine Road," Wantage Recorder, July 21, August 18, 1911; Snell, History of Sussex and Warren Counties, 1: 34; Amelia S. Decker, That Ancient Trail: First Road of any Length Built in America (Trenton, 1942), p. 41; and The First Sussex Centennary containing the Addresses of Benjamin B. Edsall and Rev. J. F. Tuttle (Newark, 1853), p. 32.

By fall, 1757 the original four blockhouses had been doubled. Fort Johns, or Headquarters, had been added about halfway between Wallpack and Nominock. It was the largest of the forts--about 120 square feet. Headquarters contained a log house 15 x 20 feet, a stone dwelling 52 x 26 for the family residing there, a blockhouse 50 x 24, and at one corner a second log house 20 x 15 feet. Five miles north of Nominock was Brinks with a wooden house 50 x 24 surrounded by a 50-foot-square palisade. One family lived there. Coles Fort was 8 miles from Brinks at the junction of the Mahackamack and Delaware Rivers. There, a 120-foot-square palisade contained a wooden dwelling 60 x 26, two small blockhouses, and one family. The northernmost fort was Gardiners. Located 12 miles beyond Coles, it possessed a wooden dwelling house, five log houses, a 100-foot-square palisade, and was the only fort for which Hampton listed armaments--two swivel guns. One family resided in the fort.⁵

All these fortification, plus the private forts erected by some of the settlers and other site fortified after 1757, were designed as protection against Indian attacks. The Delawares took most of their wrath out on the Pennsylvania settlers, including, on December 10, 1755, attacks on the Depue home just south and across the river from Fort Van Campen. It was the New Jersey militia that drove the attackers off. The Jersey settlements also suffered periodic bloody attacks. In some cases the turmoil was used to settle old scores.

The most gruesome example of this was the murder of Captain Anthony Swartwout by Benjamin Springer, who led three Indians and another white man to Swartwout's cabin. After a short fight they took captive the captain, his two children, one Thomas Hunt, and a young Negro. Swartwout was put to death by torture: his captors slit his stomach, fastened his

5. The above descriptions are taken from Hampton's report to Governor Reading in October 1757. On the map Hampton included a plan of Fort Johns, possibly the only plan of a Jersey frontier fort that is in existence.

entrails to a tree, and forced him to walk around it, winding his bowels about the tree. The raiders then took the other captives west toward the Wyoming Valley. Swartwout's two children escaped, or were freed, and upon returning to New Jersey swore out a warrant for Springer's arrest. He was captured, tried, convicted, and hung for the crime.⁶

Though few in actual number, the isolated attacks and ambushes kept the region in turmoil for three years. In June and August, 1756 a series of attacks took six lives in the vicinity of Coles Fort. In November, 1757 two soldiers were killed by five Indians within two miles of Fort Van Campen. During May and June of the next year there were a series of attacks in the vicinity of Forts Wallpack and Nomanock. On May 17, 1758 13 Indians struck at the home of Nicholas Cole; after murdering and scalping four of the children they looted the house and carried off Mrs. Cole and her ten year old son, Jacob. They then joined two other savages who had three German captives. That afternoon one of the three Germans was killed and scalped near Anthony Westbrook's fortified home. The Indians remained on the New Jersey side of the river for the night and in the morning encountered four men traveling to Fort Nominock to join a pursuit party. After a heated fight the Indians were driven off, but not before they had killed the other two German hostages. Mrs. Cole and her son escaped. On June 10 five settlers and nine Indians clashed, again near the Westbrook home. Two of the settlers were killed and scalped. The same month William Ward was killed within a half-mile of Fort Wallpack, while hunting. The hostilities came to an end in October, 1758 at a conference in Easton. The Delawares and other tribes gave up their claims to all lands in New Jersey and portions of Pennsylvania. Peace returned to the region for five years.⁷

6. Stickney, "Old Mine Road," Wantage Recorder, August 18, 1911, and Cary, History Study Proposed Tocks Island Recreation Area, pp. 124-25.

7. Snell, History of Sussex and Warren Counties, 1; 37-39; Stickney, "Old Mine Road," Wantage Recorder, August 25, 1911; and Brush, "Blockhouses N. J. Frontier," pp. 35, 50-51, 60.

Pontiac's War touched the New Jersey settlers along the Delaware very lightly but the potential threat was sufficient to reactivate the forts with a frontier guard of 200 men. Settlers fled to the safety of the forts. In November 1764, one hundred fifty refugees were at Issac Van Campen's large home near Fort Johns or Shapanack.⁸ After two years the sense of emergency ended and the forts were abandoned again. The Treaty of Fort Stanwix ended the war in 1768 and life returned to normal for the settlers. Ten years passed in relative peace, until the guns of Lexington and Concord marked the beginning of active hostility toward England.

After 1763 England, faced with a large debt as a result of the recent war with France, moved to levy taxes on certain colonial activities. Discontent began and was centered in the cities and seaports directly affected by the mercantile laws. To the people settled along the Delaware these rumblings of discontent were very faint. On July 16, 1774, John C. Symmes offered a set of resolutions stating the people's obligation of loyalty to King George III, levying taxes without the consent of the people, and protesting the closing of Boston port. Sussex County sent a committee of ten men to discuss the deteriorating relations with the crown with other county committees. Meeting in New Brunswick, they voted to send five delegates to the First Continental Congress in September 1774. On May 10, 1775, the Board of Freeholders for Sussex County met and resolved that no further salary be paid to crown-appointed judges. The board at that time included, from the river townships, John Cleve Symmes, Abraham Van Campen, and Issac Van Campen. A county committee of safety was organized in Newton, the county seat, on August 10 and 11. Members from those townships were Abraham and Moses Van Campen, Daniel Depue, Jr., Joseph Montague, Emanuel Hover, John Symmes, John Rosenkrans, Samuel

8. Stickney, "Old Mine Road," Wantage Recorder, September 8, 1911, quoting a letter of Capt. Lemuel Bowers to the Pennsylvania Journal dated November 6, 1763.

Westbrook, Henry Hover, and Henry and John Cortright. It was ordered that Articles of Association be signed by all adult residents of the three townships--Montague, Sandyston, and Wallpack--a list of all eligible males from 16 to 50 years be prepared, and 40 pounds of ammunition be subscribed for the battalion raised by J. C. Symmes.⁹ At the same meeting a collector was designated to raise £593.5.4, the county's share of the £10,00 requested by the Provincial Congress. During the first 11 months of 1776 revolutionary activity in Sussex County subsided. Representatives from the area along the Delaware went to the New Jersey Provincial Congress where they formed a provisional government and prepared a draft of a new state constitution.

The committee to draft the constitution included John Cleve Symmes, the only major figure of the Revolution which the river townships produced. Born on Long Island in 1742, he was trained as a lawyer but never practiced law in Sussex County. About 1760 he moved to Wallpack and may have taught school there for a period of time. Symmes also acquired several hundred acres of land, including the present site of Wallpack Center. During the years between 1760 and 1775 Symmes built a home (later destroyed and now the site of the Dayton Cole house) and a grist-mill. Just before moving to Wallpack he married Anna Tuthill; they had two daughters before Mrs. Symmes's death in July 1776. With the outbreak of the Revolutionary War Symmes became increasingly active, serving as a delegate to the state provincial congress in 1776 and the same year becoming a colonel in one of the county militia regiments. Under Col. Jacob Ford, Jr., he participated in the harrassment of the British flanks as Washington retreated across New Jersey in late 1776. He was also present at the battles of Short Hills in June 1777 and Monmouth in June 1778. In 1777 Symmes was appointed Associate Justice of the New Jersey

9. Cary, History Study Tocks Island Recreation Area, pp. 131-32; Snell, History Sussex and Warren Counties, 1, 51; and Stickney, "Old Mine Road," Wantage Recorder, November 24, 1911.

Supreme Court and served in that capacity for ten years. During 1784-86 he was a delegate to the Continental Congress. In 1788 he became involved in land speculation in the present state of Ohio and moved there permanently in 1789. He died at Cincinnati in 1814.¹⁰

In the course of General Washington's retreat across New Jersey he realized the vital need for additional troops to supplement his rapidly swindling forces. Between November 22 and 28 he wrote to Charles Lee and Gen. Phillip Schuyler for help. On December 2 Schuyler dispatched General Horatio Gates from Albany. By the eighth Gen. Gates was at Kingston; he then marched down the Minisink Road and, on December 10 reached Isaac Van Campen's house. A snow storm forced the column to halt and on December 12 Gates wrote to Washington from Van Campen's with news that he was marching to join him with Poore's, Stark's, Read's, and Patterson's regiments. Two days later Gates was at Bethlehem where General Sullivan joined him. The two generals reached Washington's camp in Pennsylvania on December 20, their troops arriving two days later.¹¹ On Christmas night Washington gave the Revolution new hope and life by leading his forces across the Delaware to strike the Hessians at Trenton.

Removed from the main battlefield, the river route provided a means for units to move from the northern department to the southern with little danger of encountering British troops. On two other occasions military units used the road down the Delaware Valley and tradition reports that at least one famous traveler also did so.

During the winter of 1778-79 Count Casimir Pulaski and his legion were assigned to protect the settlements in the vicinity of Port Jervis from attack by Joseph Brant and the Indians he led. Though Pulaski

10. Snell, History of Sussex and Warren Counties, 1: 179, 319.

11. Moses Bigelow, "The Old Mine Road," Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society 52 (January 1934), 12-13.

chafed at the idea of such an unimportant assignment he accepted the detail, but continued to agitate Washington for a more challenging assignment. Presumably the legion spent a certain portion of the winter on patrol to the north and south of Port Jervis.¹²

In 1778 the inhabitants of the frontiers of New York and Pennsylvania petitioned Congress to relieve them of the burden of Indian attacks. On February 25, 1779, Congress directed Washington to take effective measures to chastise the Indians. Washington communicated with his commanders, including Phillip Schuyler, regarding the number of men needed to move against the Six Nations and their British and Tory supporters. Washington also inquired about the character of the country, the existing roads, and other matters. When General Gates declined command of the expedition Washington offered it to Major General John Sullivan, who accepted. The plan of operations was twofold--destroy and devastate the Indian settlements and capture as many prisoners as possible as hostages to assure the good behavior of the Six Nations. The country was not to be "merely overrun but destroyed."¹³

The rendezvous point for the units was Easton, Pennsylvania. From here Sullivan intended to launch his attack against the villages of the Six Nations. Among the units assigned to this operation was the 2nd New

12. Details on Pulaski's activities are scant. Presumably his presence deterred the Indians from further attacks. One author contends that Pulaski made his headquarters at Fort Johns for a portion of the winter (Angell, Fifty Years on the Frontier, p. 33). It seems more likely that he did not divide his forces, but rather remained near Port Jervis, in the area most prone to attack. Decker, That Ancient Trail, p. 54, says Pulaski and his troops camped at Van Campen's Inn the first night.

13. Christopher Ward, The War of the Revolution, J. R. Alden, ed. (2 Vols. New York, 1952), 2, 638-39.

York Regiment under the command of General Philip Van Cortlandt which spent the first part of the campaign cutting a road for the main body of the expedition. In the first days of May the regiment began preparation to leave their winter quarters in the vicinity of Wawarsing in Ulster County, New York. On May 4 there was a brief skirmish with some hostiles near Wawarsing and the next day preparations were completed. Departing on May 6 the regiment marched 14 miles to Mamacotting (present-day Wurtzboro). By the next evening they had crossed the Neversink and were encamped on the farm of Major Decker north of Port Jervis. After a late start they reached Port Jervis Saturday evening. On Sunday, May 9, they discharged the four wagons they had taken from Wawarsing, loaded their provisions aboard canoes, and sent them down the Delaware. Resuming the march, they rested during the heat of the day at Squire Van Campen's and then pushed on to Decker's Ferry, operated by Daniel Decker, the brother of Major Decker. They remained at Decker's Ferry on the 10th, refreshing and rehabilitating themselves. Tuesday morning the regiment crossed the river and marched toward Fort Penn (present-day Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania), stopping for refreshments at Depue's in Lower Smithfield. On May 14 the regiment departed Fort Penn and continued toward Easton.¹⁴

Sullivan's expedition against the Six Nations did not materially change conditions for settlers on the New Jersey side of the Delaware. Just as in the French and Indian War 20 years earlier, there were very few attacks here. One instance occurred in April 1777. On April 25 a

14. Twenty-eight individuals kept journals during Sullivan's campaign in 1779. Of these 17 are published in full in Journals of the Military Expedition of Maj. Gen. John Sullivan Against the Six Nations of Indians (Albany, 1887), including those of Lt. John L. Hardenbergh and Lt. Charles Nukerck of the 2nd New York Regiment, which were the primary sources for the above narrative, pp. 115-17 and 213-14. Other sources include Angell, Fifty Years on the Frontier, p. 34-35; Robert Brown Keller, History of Monroe County, Pennsylvania (Stroudsburg, 1927), p. 143; and Stickney, "Old Mine Road, " Wantage Recorder, October 20, 1910.

party of 30 Indians and two Englishmen crossed the Delaware and attacked the Job family home, taking several prisoners and scalping three men, including the head of the family. They then continued on to the house of Abraham Shimer, where Shimer and several of his Negro slaves, armed with a rifle and axes repelled their initial attack. Gunfire attracted the attention of the nearby fort which moved to the rescue. Pursued by the militia, plus Shimer and his slaves, the Indians retreated, abandoning their prisoners. The Indians regrouped and struck again capturing a Mr. Patterson and his two small sons. They were taken north; Patterson escaped one day's journey from Niagara and returned to his home. His sons were adopted by the Indians; Elias, the younger, later returned to Montague, married and lived there until 1838 when he and his wife went to the Tuscarora Reservation.¹⁵

With renewed hostilities during the Revolution the line of forts resumed activity. All those that had served during the earlier war were again garrisoned and several other added. Also, families continued to fortify their homes. All these measures may have served as a deterrent as there was no continued, active hostility against the settlements. After the raids of April 1777 the forts were manned by militia units which reacted quickly to attack and the threat of attack. On several occasions, such as the battle of Raymondskill in April 1780, and after Brant's bloody raid in July 1779, troops from New Jersey crossed over into Pennsylvania or New York to aid in the pursuit of the Indians.

John Adams is believed to have used the road down the New Jersey shore on occasion while traveling to and from Philadelphia or to meetings of the Continental Congress. On at least two occasions in 1777 Adams crossed through Sussex County. Normally he would have

15. Henry C. Beck, The Roads of Home: Lands and Legends of New Jersey (New Brunswick, 1956), p. 12; Decker, That Ancient Trail, p. 50; Stickney, "Old Mine Road," Wantage Recorder, November 24, 1911; and Snell, History of Sussex and Warren Counties, 1: 54-55.

traveled via New York City, but since that town was held by the English from fall 1776 until November 1783 he had to take an inland route. On January 9, 1777, he departed from Boston for Baltimore where the Continental Congress was in session. Traveling via Hartford, Connecticut to Fishkill on the Hudson River, Adams turned north to Poughkeepsie, crossed the Hudson, returned south to a point opposite Peekskill, on January 20 passed through Bethlehem, and four days later wrote his beloved Abigail from Easton. He reported that the roads had been abominably rough and the accomodations often very bad, but far better and cheaper than if he had taken the road from Peekskill to Morristown.¹⁶ On February 1 he and James Lovell, with whom he had been traveling, reached Baltimore. Ten months later Adams and his cousin Samuel departed York Pennsylvania, where Congress was sitting. Traveling via Lancaster and Reading, Pennsylvania, they reached Bethlehem on the 14th and spent the night at Easton. Adams noted in his diary that the weather had been severe.¹⁷ On Saturday evening, November 15, they stayed at Log Gaol with Willis.¹⁸ They breakfasted the next day at Sussex Court House and spent the night at David McCambly's, 34 miles from Log Gaol. The following evening found them five miles from the Hudson River.¹⁸ On November 28 John Adams was elected to replace Silas Deane as Commissioner to France. Adams sailed for France on February 13, 1778. He did not return to the United States until 1788, serving during the final three years as envoy to the Court of St. James in England.

16. John to Abigail Adams, Easton, Pennsylvania, January 24, 1777, Familiar Letters of John Adams and his wife Abigail Adams, During the Revolution with a Memoir of Mrs. Adams by Charles Francis Adams (New York, 1876), p. 237.

17. Log Gaol or Jail was the first county seat of Sussex County. Now known as Johnsonburg, Warren County, New Jersey.

18. L. H. Butterfield, ed., Diary and Autobiography of John Adams, (4 Vols., Cambridge, 1961), 2, 267-68.

Tradition says that John Adams used this route as late as 1800 and that he stayed at the Van Campen Inn. The source of this story apparently was Luke Brodhead in his book The Delaware Water Gap published in 1870. Yet it is obvious from the above that the only times John Adams might have stayed in the Van Campen Inn was in the final half of 1776 or during 1777. Evidence indicates that on at least one of his trips through Sussex County he passed east of the Kittatinny Mountains and nowhere near the Delaware River. Study of maps of the period show roads linking Peekskill or other towns along the Hudson with both Newton and Minisink, New Jersey. The most direct route, however, from Peekskill is via Newton rather than down the Delaware Valley. After his return to the country in 1788 he would have traveled via New York City rather than on an inland route. The possibility of Adams staying at the Van Campen Inn in 1776-77 cannot be completely ruled out, but it seems relatively remote. A visit to the inn by John Adams after 1788 can be ruled out completely.

With the end of the Revolution life on the farms and in the small towns along the Delaware assumed a normality that was rarely disturbed for the next century-and-a-half. Major events passed the area by as did the major transportation routes. The land along the Delaware became a backwater of American life, attracting little notice beyond local borders. Compared to the first hundred years those after 1800 were totally lacking in drama. Today the land appears little changed except for the disappearance of farm lands and the increasing number of vacant houses as the owners, their land purchased by the government, depart for new places.

CHAPTER IV

An Introductory Statement Regarding the Historical Base Map and the First Section on Pahaquarry and Millbrook

Nearly 90 sites along the New Jersey side of the Delaware River are treated in the following chapters. Numbered from south to north they are located on the accompanying historical base maps. They begin near Tocks Island and go north through Pahaquarry Flats, past Wallpack Bend, Shappanack Island, Minisink Island, and terminate at Mashipacong Island near Port Jervis, New York.

Pahaquarry Flats, the site of the traditional pre-1660 Dutch copper mine, was one of the earliest areas settled. Owned originally by Abraham Van Campen, the seven-mile tract was later divided among his heirs. Millbrook is a small picturesque village on Van Campen, or Mill, Brook which the National Park Service hopes to return to its 1860 appearance.

Site # 1--Archeological Excavation, Indian Village

Considerable archeological work has been done along the Delaware River by the staffs of nearby universities and other institutions. One such site is located 3,200 feet above the northern tip of Tocks Island. Historic artifacts discovered include English trade goods. There is no physical evidence of Dutch presence in the area.¹ Indian village sites are common in the Pahaquarry Flats. Vague references to Indian burial places are found in literature dealing with the area.

1. On September 20-22, 1971, this writer and Historian Albert Dillahunty, of the Recreation Area, toured the historic sites along the New Jersey side of the river. Mr. Dillahunty's knowledge of the individual sites is impressive, a result of the more than six years he has been in the park. Cited hereafter as: Dillahunty Field Survey.

Site # 2--Harry's Farm

The Harry's Farm site is located 2200 feet north of Tocks Island. Over the past three summers Seton Hall University has run extensive excavations here under the direction of Herbert C. Kraft. Archeological research finds the site most significant for an understanding of proto-historic New Jersey. There is evidence of Indian occupation from middle Archaic to protohistoric or Colonial times. Especially valuable is the light the area may shed, in the future, on that little known tribe of the Delaware Nation, the Munsee, and their first contacts with white settlers.²

"Harry's Farm" is the local nomenclature for the area. In 1970 the site became known temporarily as "Cloud Nine", owing to the communal group residing there. The years following World War II have witnessed various resort and entertainment facilities on this land.³

Site # 3--Copper Mine Inn

The Copper Mine Inn stands on the site, and incorporates buildings that were part of the Union Hotel operated by Samuel Shoemaker and his family. According to local tradition, the main house was built about 1710 but the present stone structure appears to have been built much later. Originally a two-and-a-half story building, a frame third floor was later added. The present interior is greatly altered from its

2. Herbert C. Kraft, Seton Hall University Museum Excavations in the Tocks Island Area, 1968-1969 Season (South Orange, N. J., 1970), p. 101.

3. Kraft, Seton Hall Excavations, p. 85

probable appearance more than a century ago when the Shoemakers owned it. In 1852 both Samuel and his brother Moses operated hotels along the river and both had ferries connecting with the Pennsylvania shore. By 1860 one ferry was still running. In the 1870's the Union Hotel served as the post office. Just when the name changed to "Copper Mine Inn" is not known. Three structures remain on the site: the main house, ruins of the stone spring house--badly damaged in the 1955 flood--most of the stone was used to build an outdoor grill--and a barn with hewn oak framing very similar to Pennsylvania German barns. The barn, like the hotel, has been considerably altered. The entire complex will be flooded by the proposed dam.

Site # 4--The Old Dimmick House and Ferry

The only ferry near the site of the hotels owned by Samuel and Moses Shoemaker was located upstream from the Union Hotel. Operated by Moses Shoemaker, this ferry touched the Pennsylvania shore near present-day Zion Church. The first ferry at that site, near Shoemaker's Eddy, had been operated by a James Gould as early as 1736. About 1760 the Shoemaker family took the ferry over and controlled it for more than a hundred years. Upon the death of Moses Shoemaker in 1865 the main farm, including the mansion or hotel, two barns, and other outbuildings plus the ferry itself, was disposed of at public sale. Briefly owned by William Fisher, it passed into the hands of Michael H. Dimmick in 1881. First Michael and then his son Peter ran the ferry until, on Peter's death in 1938, it closed down.⁴

4. The discussion of the Copper Mine Inn and Dimmick's Ferry is based on the following sources. F. W. Beers, County Atlas of Warren, New Jersey From Actual Surveys by and under the Direction of F. W. Beers (New York, 1874), Plate 17 and Business Notices in back of atlas; Map of Warren County New Jersey, Drawn and Engraved under the Direction of H. F. Walling (New York, 1860); Map of Warren County, New Jersey by D. McCarty, 1852 (Philadelphia); and Norman Souder, "Historic Structures Report, Part I, Architectural Data Section on Historic Buildings Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area " (1967), pp. 45-48. This very useful report has been relied on for most of the architectural descriptions used in the present report. Hereafter cited as Souder.

The ferry was described in 1911 as follows:

A convenient ferry is used to cross the river--consisting of a large flat boat propelled by one man using a long enough pole to reach bottom when the water is low. When the water is high an iron ring slides on a high steel cable from shore to shore and a short cable connects the boat to the ring.⁵

The Dimmick Ferry complex included two houses and a barn--all dating to ownership by Moses Shoemaker. All structures have now been obliterated. The smaller of the two houses appeared to date from about 1840 or 1850. It was a one-and-a-half story frame structure with a slate roof, and in poor condition. There were two small rooms on the first floor and three on the second. It was similar in design to the Upper Delaware Valley type with six-over-six light sash on the first floor and gable ends, and three-over-three light horizontal sash on the second floor. The interior doors were board and batten on cast iron butt hinges. There was a simple continuous chair rail in both rooms of the first floor. The larger frame house was two-and-a-half stories with a front porch the length of the house. It had a slate roof and clapboard siding. The window sash were two-over-two light Victorian type. The central portion of the house may have dated back to circa 1830 and contained the only fireplace in the building. The frame barn was built on a rubble stone stable section with hewn timbers mortised, tenoned, and pegged together. There were wrought iron strap hinges on the doors.⁶ The main house was a semi-hotel that catered to raftsmen. One of the big maple trees near the site of the larger house has an attachment for the cable used by the ferry.

5. Stickney, "Old Mine Road," Wantage Recorder, July 21, 1911. A discussion of ferries on the Delaware will be presented with Site # 35, Decker Ferry.

6. Souder, pp. 49-51. Souder's report contains photographs of most of the buildings investigated as well as his recommendations for treatment.

Site # 5--Pahaquarry Mines

North of Dimnick Ferry and south of Poxono Island, Mine Brook flows into the Delaware. Following it upward one reaches the mine holes of Pahaquarry. Discussed at length in the final pages of Chapter Two, this was the reputed locale of the pre-1660 Dutch copper mine that prompted the building of the Old Mine Road. Although all structures have been obliterated, the area has several tunnels and considerable evidence of surface mining. In September 1971 Historian Dillahunt of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area explored two of these tunnels. The larger, located on the west side of the brook, runs back over a hundred feet and forms a T. The left arm extends back for less than twenty feet, while the right runs for about 50 feet, then turns left for another thirty. The height of the tunnel for its entire length is about $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet. A second, smaller tunnel lies 1500 feet east and goes back about 70 feet. The mine buildings constructed by the Montgomery or Pahaquarry Mining Company between 1900 and 1910 have either been torn down or modified for use by the Boy Scout camp that occupied the site since the 1920's. The Scouts have recently departed after selling the land to the United States Government. The water behind Tocks Island Dam will reach to near the mouth of the larger tunnel and cover the building sites.

Site # 6--Calno School

A one-room frame structure resting on a concrete foundation, the Calno School presently serves as the meeting place for the Pahaquarry Township Committee. Although the first school building at Calno was constructed in 1877, Historical Architect Souder indicates that this is a more modern structure.⁷

7. Souder, p. 53.

Site # 7--Abraham Van Campen House and Cemetary

As Justice of the Peace and colonel in the militia, Abraham Van Campen was the single most important leader in the Pahaquarry region until his death in 1766. His house, built about 1750, reflects this. In 1732 Van Campen purchased 1,666 acres and, through subsequent purchases, nearly doubled the amount. He then sold approximately half of his holdings, leaving his four sons about 1600 acres. The land was described in 1769 as mostly level with a range of swelling hills suitable for sheep pasture if cultivated. Abraham Van Campen, Jr. acquired the house and, upon his death in May 1811, left it to his son James. It was in this house that the town meeting was held March 14, 1825, to establish the civil organization of Pahaquarry Township in newly established Warren County. The house passed from James Van Campen to William Ribble and remained in the Ribble family until May 1932 when it was acquired by Mrs. Julia Orthwein of New York City. Mrs. Orthwein made several changes on the exterior to give it the appearance it has today.

Built of red sandstone with walls 2 to 3 feet thick, the story-and-a-half house measures 56 by 25 feet. Until 1932 it was covered by a lime and sand wash. During the mid-1930's the first floor was covered with stucco; a modern gable and porch was added about the same time as well as a new roof of short red shingles. The original front entrance was closed off sometime before 1967. The interior of the building has suffered fewer modifications than the exterior and still possesses the large arched fireplaces and exposed ceilings with large wide-spaced beaded joists. The flooring in the southeast rooms and upstairs is original. The low ceilings and the small windows also appear to be original.⁸

8. Rosalie F. Bailey, Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York (New York, 1968), pp. 545-48; Stickney, "Old Mine Road," Wantage Recorder, July 21, 1911; Smith, Tour of Four Great Rivers, pp. 77-78; McTernan, "Esopus-Minisink Way," p. 50 Dillahunt Field Survey; and Souder, pp. 54-55.

On a small hill 150 yards southeast of the house is the Van Campen Cemetery. Most of the burials are post-1860 although a few markers date from the early 1800's. Predominating are the Van Campen, Sutton, and Bunnel families. The cemetery is considerably overgrown.

Site # 8--B. B. Van Campen House

Located on a hill above the Abraham Van Campen house and across the lane to the south of the cemetery. Owned by B. B. Van Campen, farmer, stockgrower, and lumberman, the two-and-a-half-story structure is covered with clapboards of unequal widths except for one end that is covered with slate--the only building in the park so constructed. The roof is slate and there are brick chimneys at either end of the main house. A one-and-a-half-story wing with several shed additions extends from one end of the house. A large patio has been built on the rear facing the river. There are four outbuildings on the well-landscaped property. It is recommended that the house be flooded while part of the outbuildings and a portion of the old part of the main house be relocated to Millbrook.

Site # 9--Van Campen's Fort

One of the original four blockhouses erected in 1756. These forts are discussed at length in Chapter 3 of this report. Three locations for the Van Campen fort have been suggested. The house itself included a blockhouse, a small log house, and was surrounded by a palisade--all pointing to the existence of a fort there. In his articles in the Wantage Recorder, Charles E. Stickney has placed the fort 20 rods or 105 yards northeast of the Van Campen house. The third locale is on a bluff above Van Campen's Brook, or Mill Brook. This is the traditional site of the fort and the one pointed to by George Van Campen before his death in 1967. Of the three locations the most plausible is the first, which is taken from a description of the forts along the Delaware prepared by Jonathan Hampton in October 1757 for the Governor of New Jersey.

In 1966 the Sussex County Historical Society excavated the third site which contained a building composed of two sections, each about 22 feet square--one built of unmortared red shale and the other of grey fieldstone. According to George Van Campen, then in his late 80's, the fort was the red shale section, the other having been added after 1800 to convert the structure into a farm house. All of the artifacts recovered were post-1850, excepting three buttons and some kaolin pipe stem fragments which might be of the Revolutionary War era or earlier. No other evidence of a fort was discovered.⁹ Sites #7 and #9, then, may be taken as one and the same location.

Additional excavations on the Van Campen sites include that of Seton Hall University Museum which found evidence of occupation from Early Archaic to very late Woodland times.¹⁰

Site # 10--Miller House

This white clapboard house is two-and-a-half-stories high and rests on a stone foundation. A corner stone in the foundation reads: ABK †† MVK 17 68. The final two numbers may have been added later as the house does not appear to be that old. The present owner believes that an earlier house may have been destroyed and the present house built about 1812, the "17" indicating a date somewhere in that proximity. Much of the glass in the six-over-six sash is of the early distorted type. Some of the exterior trim is Victorian while the main entrance is a form of Greek Revival with double doors and small paned side-lights. The flooring is of old wide boards and, in one room, the chimney breast is paneled in the 18th-century manner. At the south end of the house is a one-and-a-half-story addition that appears to be of relatively recent construction. There is a combination wagon shed and corn crib on the Miller property.

9. The above discussion is from Brush, "Blockhouses of the New Jersey Frontier, 1755-1783," pp. 30-32.

10. Kraft, Seton Hall Excavations, p. 83.

This is a 20 x 30-foot, one-story frame building with loft. The corn crib stands on stone piers while the wagon shed portion is on a stone foundation. The entire structure is painted red. The park plans to move the wagon shed and corn crib to the Millbrook Village complex.¹¹

Site # 11--Van Campen Farm

Another of the many Van Campen homes in the Pahaquarry region, it is located near Van Campen Brook and is one of the few relatively unspoiled homes in the area.¹² It is a two-and-a-half-story house with a one-and-a-half-story kitchen wing. The basement foundation is rubble stone and the house is framed with clapboard siding covered with asbestos shingle siding. The roof is composition shingle. The first floor windows contain nine-over-six light sash and those on the second, six-over-six. The gable windows have four-light sash in the main house and nine-light in the kitchen. Stone chimneys with exposed bases are located at either end of the house, a typical feature of many early houses in the area. The entire interior is detailed in excellent 18th-century fashion--a handsome staircase in the main hall, beading on all the large exposed rafters, chair rails throughout, and original and very wide floor boards. The mantels over the fireplaces are early and the two corner fireplaces in the parlor are gouge carved in a rural variation of the 18th-century style. The hardware consists of open spring latches and cast iron butts.¹³

11. Souder, Addenda, pp. (11)-(13).

12. Souder recommends that the house be moved to a new location and carefully restored (p. 57).

13. Ibid., pp. 56-57.

Site # 12--Hamilton Houses

Two houses, one behind the other, are along a dirt road which, in the early 19th century, may have linked Minisink and Pahaquarry. The larger is a two-and-one-half-story Victorian addition to the original 18th-century one-and-a-half-story house. The interior of the house has been severely vandalized and many of the window sashes broken out. To the rear of the large house is a small frame structure on a rubble stone foundation which dates from the early 19th century. The structural framing is mortised and tenoned hewn oak. There is evidence of plastered walls and ceiling. Both the floor boarding and the board and batten entrance are early 19th-century. A huge stone fireplace is centered at one end of the building.¹⁴

Site # 13--Reputed Portion of Old Mine Road

According to Harlan Fish, a local historian living near Millbrook, this section of unimproved dirt road is reputed to be part of the Old Mine Road. (Additional study has led to the conclusion that this site does not warrant inclusion on the Historical Base Map.)

Site # 14--Hiram Zimmerman House

A summer resort in the late 1800's and until after 1920 with a private ferry across the Delaware.¹⁵

Site # 15--Hawkins or Kinney Place

The house is shown in Beer's Atlas of Warren County as belonging to Charles F. Kinney, who later sold it to a Mr. Hawkins. Harlan Fish (see

14. Souder, pp. 114-15, and Dillahunt Field Survey.

15. Dillahunt Field Survey. Further study of the site is needed.

Site # 13) locates the Old Mine Road as passing in front of the house, but the 1874 map shows the road much as it is today--a lane providing access to the houses along it and terminating near the Kinney house. Interesting features include carved arrows pointing down from the peak of the roof at both ends. The house appears on an 1860 map and may be over 100 years old.¹⁶

Site # 16--Old Road Alignment to Millbrook Village

The original road to Millbrook Village went up Van Campen Brook, crossing and recrossing the stream past the sites of the first church, public school and the new Methodist Church built in 1860, and entering the village from the south. This road and the one from Blairstown formed a crossroads at the center of the village. About 1955 the road was re-aligned and now passes to the northwest of the village. The Blairstown road was changed to follow a different alignment through the village. It has been shifted south about 200 feet to a new bridge. The old trace still shows on the current USGS maps. The National Park Service plans to restore the road as part of the Millbrook Village restoration.

Site # 17--Coonrad Welter's Methodist Tavern

Coonrad Welter arrived in the Millbrook area in the early 1830's, probably about the time a village began to grow up around the crossroads and mill on Van Campen Brook. Methodist ministers had visited the settlements along the river in the early 19th century as part of a 500-mile circuit. Two of these early visitors were Manning Force and George Banghart. These circuit riders stayed with Coonrad Welter and his family, thus earning the Welter home the sobriquet of Methodist Tavern, possibly an example of pioneer wit. In 1839 Rev. Baker formed a Bible Class at Welter's home. The next year under the Rev. Henry Mains plans were made for a church with a public school in the basement. Trustees included

16. Dillahunt Field Survey and map of Pahaquarry Township in Beers, County Atlas of Warren County.

Welter and four others. Coonrad Welter remained an active member of the church until his death, serving as a church trustee as late as 1880.¹⁷

Site # 18--Millbrook School

Site # 19--Millbrook's First Methodist Church and Cemetery

As these two sites are linked historically and located very close together, they will be treated as one. When the Methodists meeting at Coonrad Welter's decided to start a church, it was determined to utilize the basement of the building for a public school. There is some question as to whether the Methodists built a new structure or took over a building that was already in existence by 1820. Myra Snook, local historian, contends that Jonas Smith, for the sum of six cents plus one cent each January 1, if demanded, deeded to the trustees of the German Presbyterian and Lutheran Churches of the Wallpack Union Congregation a tract of land near the cemetery which included a frame building with a stone basement. The deed was dated May 13, 1820. According to Miss Snook, this church was acquired by the Methodists in 1840 after the membership of the Wallpack Union congregation had decreased. In his History of Sussex and Warren Counties, James Snell also states that the building was constructed in 1840.

Whatever its origin the structure near the cemetery served as the Methodist church until 1860 when a new and larger church was built near the center of the village. School was held in the basement until 1969. The frame church was then moved down the hill to its present site where it remained in use until school was discontinued at Millbrook. The building has two windows on each long side and one on either side of the entrance door. The interior walls and ceiling are covered with narrow beaded wainscoting and, in the vestibule, sheathing has been applied over older split lath and plaster. The building was partially refurbished for use during

17. Snell, History of Sussex and Warren Counties 2, 700; Myra Snook, History of Mill Brook, Pahaguarry Township, Warren Co., New Jersey (1969), no pagination, copy in Historic Records File, DEWA; and Dillahunt Field Survey.

Millbrook days, 1971 and 1972. It will be completely restored and refurnished eventually.

The cemetery on the knoll above the school has a number of unmarked graves. The headstones that remain date chiefly from the middle third of the 19th century.¹⁸

Site # 20--Millbrook Village¹⁸

The Village of Millbrook contains about a dozen structures, the three most prominent being the Methodist church, a hotel, and store. The church is a 32 x 48-frame structure and was built in 1860 after the earlier church had become too small. The minister was Rev. Ambrose Compton and trustees included Coonrad Welter, P.J.S. Garis, Uriah Hill, James Schoonover, James Van Campen, John Ribble, and Jesse Welter. In 1880 the church membership was about 40. By 1916, as the village began to decrease, the church ceased to be used for services and served for several years as a furniture storage area. By 1935, the roof had fallen in and much of the window glass was broken. It was restored under the direction of Elmer Babcock, a lay preacher, and used regularly until 1950 when again it closed. Since then it has been used only twice a year in October and June when Millbrook residents gather for reunions.

The hotel stood at the northwest corner of the crossroads for at least 50 years. It burned in 1901, was rebuilt and used once again as a hotel. A picture exists of the second structure with "Hotel" painted across one end. When acquired by the NPS the hotel was a private home.

18. A detailed study of Millbrook as it looked in 1860 is planned for FY 1972. This will aid the park in restoring the village to the appearance it had at that time. For this reason the following treatment will be brief.

The upstairs is now an employee residence and there is a visitor contact station on the main floor. It is scheduled for complete restoration in FY 1973 as a hotel-type interpretive facility.

The store is on the southwest corner of the crossroads in the same location as maps of 1860 and 1874 locate it. On May 28, 1972, the store and church were subjected to arson. Both are to be replaced in FY 1973, the store, by relocating Hawkins House (Site # 15) to the site and refurbishing it.

Probably the main reason for the development of Millbrook Village was the grist mill built there about 1832 and operated until 1922 when a fire destroyed both the mill and nearby dwelling house. During the years of peak activity the town boasted at least one blacksmith shop, a shoemaker, and by 1851, a post office. Decline had set in by 1920 and was accelerated by the destruction of the mill.¹⁹ The character of the town changed and it became a residential settlement. All of the residents moved away in the years after 1950. The National Park Service plans to restore Millbrook as a typical 1860 village, or as Millbrook might have been rather than as it necessarily was.

19. . Snell, History Sussex and Warren Counties 2, 699-700, and Millbrook folder in Historic Records File, DEWA.

CHAPTER V

Flatbrookville

Flowing south and east the Delaware River turns back upon itself to form Wallpack Bend. A short narrow ridge .6 of a mile in length and rising 120 feet above the river bottom dominates the area. To the northeast, and separated from the ridge by approximately 500 feet is a higher ridge two miles in length. To the northwest flows the Delaware and on the southeast the Flat Brook. The two join at the northeastern curve of the S-shaped loop. Near this junction is located the town of Flatbrookville.

Site # 21--Slamovka

At least three or four names have been given to this large frame house overlooking the Delaware at Wallpack Bend. Originally a small house constructed between 1830 and 1840, it has received many additions and there are now 16 rooms in the two-story structure. Early in this century it was a boarding house owned by the Garis family. Andrew Salamar purchased it from Garis and established a refuge for White Russian emigrants after the fall of the Czar--Slamovka means Salamar's house. At present it is the home of Artists for the Environment. Souder calls it the Losey Boarding House. The main house may ultimately be restored to its 1840 appearance as a small one-and-a-half story "Upper Delaware Valley" house to serve as a ranger and first aid station. The future lake will be located just below the building.¹

1. Souder, p. 119; Dillahunty Field Survey; and booklet, "Artists for the Environment" (1971), in files Delaware Water Gap NRA.

Site # 22--Flatbrook Inn

The Flatbrook or St. Moritz Inn contains the fourth Wallpack Dutch Reformed Church built in 1839. The first one, located 3/4 of a mile to the west, was built about 1740. Due to vast alterations little of the original fabric remains. All structures have been obliterated and the site will be inundated.²

Site # 23--Flatbrookville

The small village of Flatbrookville located near the junction of Flat Brook and the Delaware River contains nine houses plus outbuildings. All are of frame construction dating from the middle of the last century and are presently used as summer homes. A century earlier Flatbrookville was one of the major settlements along the river. As early as 1738 a mill existed near the confluence of Flat Brook and the Delaware. As often occurs, a community slowly grew up around the mill. One of the early millers was Hendrich Aurennds, who purchased 121 acres from Adam Dingman in 1760. Another was Benjamin or James Barton, who sold his mill in May 1797 to George Overpeck. The first store in Flatbrookville was constructed in 1818 by Thomas Durling. By 1860 there were three stores, a cooper and wheelwright shop, a blacksmith, gristmill, sawmill, a second cooper, a cabinet shop, a carriage manufacturer, and a hotel. During the last 40 years of the 19th century Flatbrookville thrived. Centrally located, it had a post office by the mid-1830's and in 1852 a mailroute was established via Millbrook, Hardwicke, and Stillwater to Newton, New Jersey. In the 1890's there were four star routes originating in Flatbrookville. The town began to decline in the 1920's, and

2. Souder, p. 60, and Cary, History Study Tocks Island Recreation Area, p. 40.

by the end of World War II only a few permanent residents remained.³ Today, there is only one resident owner. The population is composed primarily of Welfare clients who would prefer better housing in more desirable surroundings.

Site # 24--Decker's Ferry and House

In 1756 Daniel Decker purchased a portion of the Schoonover and Brink tract and began farming and operating a ferry. Van Courtlandt's regiment camped near the ferry in 1779. After Daniel Decker's death in 1813 the ferry and farm were taken over by his son and ultimately his grandson. The ferry was sold to Eugene Rosenkrans in the 1880's. Rosenkrans operated it at the original site for about 15 years and then moved it two miles upstream.⁴

Most of the river crossing ferries were similar in appearance: flat-bottomed boats long enough to accomodate a wagon and team or, later, two automobiles. The sides were a foot high and on each end was a hinged flap that was placed on the shore forming a bridge onto the boat. Many of the ferries were current operated. Secured to a tree, post, or tower, and strung across the river was a cable with a pulley which the ferryman would hook onto. On the return trip the pulley was merely hooked to the

3. The First Sussex Centennary containing the Addresses of Benj. B. Edsall and Rev. J. F. Tuttle (Newark, 1853), p. 17; C. G. Hine, Fact, Fancy and Romance of the Old Mine Road Kingston, N. Y. to the Mine Holes of Pahaquarry (no place of Publication, 1908), pp. 153-54; Honeyman, Northwestern New Jersey 1, 504; Webb, Sussex County Historical Directory, 58-59 and 136; G. M. Hopkins, Map of Sussex County, New Jersey (Philadelphia, 1860); and New Jersey Herald, May 14, 1942 and July 1, 1948.

4. Elizabeth D. Walters, "The Delaware; Shawnee to Wallpack," October, 1941, np. in Local History Folder Historic Records File, DEWA. New Jersey Herald (Newton), Map 14, 1942; Call Chronicle (Allentown, Penn), February 28, 1971; and Stickney, "Old Mine Road," Wantage Recorder, January 19, 1912.

opposite end of the boat. Poles were used where the river was broad and shallow.⁵

The first house erected by Daniel Decker in 1756 or 1757 was a small wooden structure which stood behind the present house built about 1800 by Decker's grandson. This story-and-a-half frame house has been carefully maintained, but considerably altered both on the exterior and interior. Most of the clapboarding is modern and an ell wing and shed roof have been placed on the rear of the structure. A porch extends across the river side of the house. The brick chimney has been rebuilt. The presence of two entrances indicates either that the house was built in two portions or that, at some time, it served as a two-family house. The ceilings are low with exposed framing. The interior doors are 19th-century with four vertical, flat panels. It is used presently as a summer home. The site will be inundated.⁶

Site # 25--Site of Fort Wallpack and Wallpack Church

This historic site is currently bisected by the road from Flatbrookville to Wallpack Center. The Wallpack Church was one of the four churches constructed about 1740. With the outbreak of the Indian hostilities in 1755 the site was fortified. A 50-foot-square palisade was constructed enclosing a small block house and the church. Rev. Fryenmuth departed the area apparently not trusting the security of the fortified church. The fort saw little action. In June, 1758 William Ward was killed by Indians while hunting a half-mile from the fort and the Indians set fire to a house on the Pennsylvania shore opposite the fort.

5. John A. Anderson, Navigation of the Upper Delaware (Trenton, 1913), pp. 14-16 and Joshua Pine III, "A Rafting Story of the Delaware River," Papers of the Bucks County Historical Society, 6 (1932): 501. See p. 47 of this report.

6. Decker, That Ancient Trail, p. 94; Cary, History Study Tocks Island Recreation Area, p. 41 and Souder, p. 65.

Sometime before 1800 the 1740 church was abandoned or destroyed and a second one built a half-mile up the road. In 1819 arrangements were made by the Dutch Reformed Congregation to share the building erected the previous year on the site of the first Wallpack church by the German Reformed Church. A third church was built on the same site in 1855. It was still in existence in 1880, but later disappeared. The site is on a hill overlooking the Lower Wallpack Cemetery, and the Rosenkrans Ferry and nearby house.⁷

Site # 26--Lower Wallpack Cemetery

Located approximately .1 of a mile west of the site of Wallpack Church and Fort Wallpack, the cemetery measures 50 x 150 feet and contains graves of the Knight, Struble, Van Campen, Bunnell, Rosenkrans, Depue, and Decker families. Although the area is somewhat grown over, the stones are still visible, the earliest dating from 1807.⁸

Site # 27--Rosenkrans' House and Ferry

Eugene Rosenkrans operated the Decker Ferry until 1898 when he moved the Ferry upstream two miles. Jeremiah Rosenkrans took over the ferry when his father died and ran it until May 4, 1945. That day planes from Stewart Air Force Base in New York were practicing dive bombing over the Delaware River. One of the aircraft swooped too low and cut the cable. The pilot lost an eye and Rosenkrans lost his ferry. Because of the war a new cable could not be purchased. The current-operated ferry used an 850-foot, 3/4-inch steel cable with supplemental power provided by an

7. Stickney, "Old Mine Road," Wantage Recorder, November 3, 1911; Snell, History of Sussex and Warren Counties 1: 329; and Dillahunt Field Survey.

8. Elizabeth G. C. Menzies, Before the Waters: The Upper Delaware Valley (New Brunswick, 1966), p. 74; Cary, History Study Tocks Island Recreation Area, p. 40-41; and Dillahunt Field Survey.

outboard motor. In the years prior to 1945 it had provided the residents of Wallpack with a short twelve-mile link to Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. The ferry boat measure 43 x 10 feet and carried two cars at a cost of 35 cents each. During the four summer months as many as 60 to 70 cars per day were transported across the 500-foot-wide river. On one July 4 more than 100 cars used the ferry. By 1946 a new cable was available, but Rosenkrans, in ill health, chose not to reopen the ferry. Residents now faced a trip three times as long to reach Stroudsburg. Today the old ferry boat sits high and dry in Worthington State Forest south of Pahaquarry Flats.⁹

Standing near the ferry landing is a typical Delaware Valley farm house. The land on which the house stands was originally part of the Brink and Schoonover tract. Purchased by Captain Emanuel Hover, he sold 150 acres to Jonas Smith in 1797. Built in two stages, the south portion was erected about 1807 by Jonas Smith and the north half sometime after 1860. The Smiths held the land for three generations. It then passed through marriage to the Rosenkrans family. The rear of the 1860 section was enlarged by means of a shed roof extending from the eave of the higher roof. The two-and-a-half-story frame house and stone foundation is presently covered with clapboards and has a slate roof. The original central chimney is still intact, but the south chimney was removed to below the roof line. There are porches on the front and rear. Stairs have replaced the kitchen fireplace. The doors in the older section are six-panel raised and the whole interior is simple in design. The interior doors in the kitchen wing are of the board and batten type. The mantle in the rear parlor is a combination of reeding and gouge-carving and is a good example of local decorative art. In 1972 the house was owned by Agnes Rosenkrans of Wallpack.¹⁰

9. Walters, "The Delaware: Shawnee to Wallpack," np; The Daily Record (Stroudsburg), March 24, 1962; Newark (N. J.), Sunday Call, September 26, 1943; and an undated clipping from the same paper in N. J. Miscellaneous Folder, Historic Record File, DEWA. Internal evidence indicates that the undated article was written in 1946.

10. Decker, That Ancient Trail, p. 93; Souder, pp. 67-68; and New Jersey Historic Preservation Survey Form (July, 1970), in Historic Records File, DEWA. The site, like many others, will be flooded.

Site # 28--Aber House

Located just north of Rosenkrans Ferry, the house is on a portion of a larger tract purchased by Phillip Smith. Smith sold it to Everett Rosenkrans just after the Civil War who held it until his death in 1874. It then passed successively to Sarah Decker, Evert Garis and Abraham Aber. The house is a typical one-and-a-half-story "Upper Delaware Valley type" with a shed addition on the south end. The original portion is pre-1850. The house is clapboard. One of the chimneys is a narrow-waisted Victorian design in brick while the other, on the north end, is cobblestone. A simple porch extends across the front. The interior of the older portion of the house has exposed ceiling beams, wide floorboards, and chair rails. Modern windows and a modern kitchen have been incorporated into the rear wing.¹¹ All but a small barn, which will be moved to Millbrook, has been obliterated.

Site # 29--Pfeuffer House

The Pfeuffer House is classified by Souder as a simple late Victorian design, two-and-a-half-story frame house with a one-and-a-half-story kitchen wing that is an older structure. The small wing is of the familiar type seen in the region with a flat, three-light sash just under the eave line and comprises only one room used for storage. Additions have rendered the house a modified salt box type. There is a flat-roofed modern extension on the rear. Like many other former farm houses it is now used as a summer home.¹²

Site # 30--Albert Knight Farm

This farm group a mile north of Rosenkrans Ferry on River Road includes a main farm house, several barns, corn crib, and hog house. The

11. Decker, That Ancient Trail, p. 92, and Souder, p. 69.

12. Souder, p. 70.

house was built during the first quarter of the 19th century and is of frame construction with clapboards. There is a semi-exposed stone chimney on the west side, which is notable for a cast iron andiron in the exterior stonework. The exterior of the house has been much altered leaving little of the original architectural detail. Souder describes the corn crib as follows: "The upward sloping ends are covered with tapered vertical slats radiating from the base. Traces of red iron oxide paint remain." Built of rough vertical boarding, the hog house is a simple early design and, although not of notably early date, is of interest because few such small structures survive. Because the site is to be inundated, Souder recommends that both the corn crib and hog house be removed to an exhibit of farm buildings. He feels the house, which is somewhat deteriorated, should be measured and photographed only.¹³

The land on which the house and outbuildings stand was owned by John Van Scorder prior to 1800, who conveyed it and the present house to his sons in 1826. The farm later became the property of Harmon Riggs who sold it to Albert K. Knight on April 1, 1872. On Knight's death it went to his son John I. B. Knight, who still owned it in 1942. The house remained in private hands as late as 1967.¹⁴

Site # 31--Meyers House

Located on the bank of Flat Brook 1.25 miles, as the crow flies, northeast of Flatbrookville and near the road to Wallpack Center. Across the road is a Victorian style house. The Meyers house is red clapboard, one-and-a-half-stories high with two eyebrow windows on the second floor level. The windows are six-over-six-light sash. There is a central chimney. The design of the house would place its construction at about 1830.

13. Souder, pp. 71-73.

14. Decker, That Ancient Trail, p. 91; and New Jersey Herald (Newton) May 14, 1942.

Only a few items are worth salvage for architectural purposes.¹⁵ Both the Meyers House and the Victorian house across from it will be inundated with the proposed dam project.

Site # 32--Tranquil Acres or McGuire House

Dating from the middle of the last century, the McGuire House is on the west side of the road to Wallpack Center. It sits 500 feet above sea level against a hill that rises 660 feet before dropping down to the Delaware River to the west. The house is a two-and-a-half-story clapboard with a one-and-a-half-story wing at one end. The entrance way has sidelights of early glass. There is an exposed fireplace in the east wing, but the chimney and fireplace have been removed. The front porch is a later addition. One of the first floor rooms features a chair rail and a corner fireplace with a plain pilastered and blocked mantel. The stairway in the center hall dates from the same era as the house. Interior doors are a combination of board and batten and four-panel types.

Also on the property is a spring house 16 x 18 feet and built of fieldstone. The gabled roof forms a cantilevered overhang. The roof is wood shingle and in very poor condition. An old board and batten door hangs by one hinge. The floor is flagstone and a spring trough runs the length of the building. This site will not be inundated.¹⁶

Site # 33--Brookhill Farm Buildings

Located across the road from the McGuire House and possessing considerable scenic appeal is a large Victorian, two-and-a-half-story clapboard structure with a slate roof. To the rear is a one-and-a-half-story wing of the "Upper Delaware Valley Type" that predates the main house. A large group of farm buildings on the site date from 1890-1910. At the base of the hill on which the house stands, near the creek, stand two stone structures. One is a spring house. At the edge of

15. Souder, p. 64, and Dillahunty Field Survey.

16. Souder, pp. 125-26, and Dillahunty Field Survey.

the water is a stone foundation rising about one story which supports a two-story vertically sheathed frame structure with a large brick chimney. From its location and appearance this could have been the site of a water-powered grist mill. The site could serve as a working farm.¹⁷

Site # 34--Warner House and Barn

This complex is south of Buttermilk Falls on the Mountain Road. Both house and barn are in less than prime condition. The house has clapboard siding and five eyebrow windows at the second floor level. A porch across the front has a shed enclosure at each end with the center portion screened in and the front entrance door has sidelights of old distorted glass. The roof is asphalt shingled. Across Mountain Road from the main house are a barn and several sheds. The barn is sheathed in vertical boards and has a gambrel roof of slate. There is a large circular louver in the gable and two pairs of twin louvered openings near the plate line of the end wall.¹⁸ Although the house is just outside the flood zone, the barn and sheds will be inundated.

Site # 35--Alonzo Cole House

Located 2.5 miles east of Wallpack Center on Mountain Road near Buttermilk Falls which is named for the presence there of a mill used for churning. In 1967 the Alonzo Cole house was in ruins, having suffered both vandalism and neglect. The main house is one-and-a-half-story with two rooms and a center hall on each floor. Built of stone, it has a full-width, 20 x 35-foot frame portion at one end. Part of the roof and all of the sheathing are missing on the addition. The

17. Souder, p. 127.

18. Ibid., pp. 174-75.

roof on the stone portion was wood shingle and on the frame extension, tin. Wide board flooring is found in the house. Trim in the two rooms of the older section is single architrave and, in the center hall, the most elaborate double architrave type. The mantels over the two fireplaces and the staircase in the center hall have been removed. Mortise and tenon framing is used in the wood addition. Recessed into the stone in the gable of the house is a weathered board reading "AC 1836".¹⁹ The ruin was obliterated in the fall of 1972. The date board was salvaged.

Site # 36--H. W. Houck House

This house was built in 1822 by S. Shoemaker on land he had purchased from the Symmes tract in 1815. From Shoemaker it passed to a Mr. Hull and later to H. W. Houck. The original two-and-a-half-story stone house measures 25 x 40-feet with a stone and frame two-story addition on the rear and an even later single-story frame added to that. The latter was originally one-and-a-half-stories but was extended upward with a one-half-story clapboard superstructure. A third extension provides for a modern kitchen area. The house is unusual in that there is no basement due to the high ground water level. Just to the right of the main door is a wide low entrance leading to a room with an earth floor slightly lower than the floor of the main house, which fills the needs usually served by a basement. Two small windows in each of the gable ends and two eyebrow windows, lighting the storage room, are the only windows in the ends of the house. There are end chimneys on the main house and one on the kitchen wing. A large well-laid flagstone terrace extends across the front of the house and along the side to the entrance of the kitchen wing. The interior is well

19. Souder, p. 176, Dillahunt Field Survey, and Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island, p. 53. Both Cary and Souder identify the house as the Samuel Cole House.

preserved with wide flooring, a chair rail, and an open stair. The parlor mantel is original with an Italian marble surround added at a later date.

A stone house nearby was constructed in two sections. One part is a spring house with milk storage troughs and the other a storage area. The roof is wood shingle. A large screen porch was added at the entrance end of the spring house. Other structures on the site include a tenant or guest house, a large garage, and a big barn.²⁰

20. Souder, pp. 172-73, and Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island Recreation Area, p. 54. Norm Souder notes the excellent condition of the buildings and suggests use as park housing and the garage as a maintenance structure. There are also two large ponds on the property.

CHAPTER VI

Wallpack and Shapanack

Both Wallpack and Shapanack are names that go far back in the history of the region. One of the first four Dutch Reformed Churches along the river was designated the Wallpack Church. Later the Shapanack Dutch Reformed Church was constructed. Shapanack Island gave its name to the tract of land purchased by Rosenkrans and Schoonmaker in 1729.

Site # 37--Dayton Cole House

Located a mile south of Wallpack on the road to Flatbrookville, the Dayton Cole house stands on the site of a house owned and possibly occupied by John Cleve Symmes. Tradition dates the present house to 1760. Architect Souder feels the house is not that old. He notes that the basement has traces of plaster, chair rails and early trim and that a portion of the basement must be of the earlier period. One of the window frames, with six-over-three light sash, may be original. From the size of the basement the original structure was a one-room cabin type similar to the Ennis house near Minisink. According to the 1967 owner, the present two-and-a-half-story building was erected on the old foundations during the last half of the 19th century. The exterior has wood shingles as siding. The house is 25 x 30 feet with brick chimneys at each end.¹

Site # 38--Cornelius Gunn House

On Ridge Road a mile south of Wallpack, this one-and-a-half-story fieldstone house measures about 25 x 35 feet and was constructed by John Shoemaker about 1814.² Two rooms and a center hall make up the

1. Souder, p. 124, and Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island Recreation Area, p. 54.

2. Decker, That Ancient Trail, p. 102, states that it was built prior to 1835 when Shoemaker returned to the Susquehanna Valley in Penn.

stone portion with a kitchen, bedroom, and bath in the wood shingled wing. The house was being restored in 1967. Three of the original mantels remain, all country carpenter design. The living room mantel is gouge-carved in a sunburst pattern with pilasters from the 1830 era. That in the dining room is simpler and may have been part of a kitchen fireplace. The bedroom mantel consists of plain pilasters and blocks. The stairway is very plain for an "Upper Delaware Valley" house. The flooring is wide boards and the joists are logs with flattened tops. Both windows and sash are new. There is evidence that at one time the house had a front porch. The name C. D. Gunn is die-stamped on the old board-and-batten exterior basement door.³

Site # 39--Richard Layton House

This land was originally part of Isaac Van Campen's estate. His executor, Abraham Van Campen, Jr., sold 200 acres to Dietrick Berck on May 24, 1807. A marker in the gable of the main house reading "E.B. 1812" indicates that Berck built soon after the purchase. John Berck who owned the Isaac Van Campen Inn from 1860 to 1917 lived on the land and both of his daughters married Laytons. Souder indicates that the earliest portion of the house was the kitchen wing, the two-and-a-half-story main house being constructed later. The main house is a stone structure center-hall type with two windows on either side of the original entrance, which consists of a six panel door, two side lights, a fan light, and a frontispiece of country carpenter construction of the 1830-40 era. The window frames with six-over-six light and pegged construction are original. There is a front porch, and a porch and patio on the rear. The house is in very good condition and should be used for employee housing. There is a cluster of barns and outbuildings near the house. The long barn with hewn structural timbers appears to

3. Souder, pp. 121-22, suggests that the house be used as quarters.

be the oldest of the group.⁴ The property was bought in 1917 by John Van Sickle and Clarence Layton, grandson of John Berck.

Site # 40--Jacob Roe House

A portion of this impressive two-and-a-half-story stone house may be one of the oldest structures in Wallpack Township. The first section appears to predate 1800. A stone arch over one of the windows in this section indicates original use as a door. The main house, .3 mile south of Wallpack Center, measures 25 x 50 feet and has been added to twice, with a patio on the south end and a porch on the rear. A stone wing extends from the rear of the building. The house has three stone chimneys and a slate roof. The cornices do not date from the 18th century. Both windows and doors are modern and detract from the historic appearance. The first floor interior has been stripped of all original features; except for the kitchen all rooms are walled with modern stained knotty pine, ceilings feature false wood beams, and the fireplaces are of rough dark stone. The house, also known as the Jacob Meyers House, was being used in 1940-42 as a bar and restaurant by Joseph Lombardi.

Behind the main house is a larger than average spring house. A loft which is reached by an outside stair may have been used to store grain and herbs or possibly as quarters for the unmarried farm hands. A slate roof, stuccoed stone walls, and a single chimney mark the exterior. The loft has been converted to an efficiency apartment. The door to the spring house is board and batten.⁵

4. Souder, pp. 122-23; Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island, p. 53; and Decker, That Ancient Trail, p. 101.

5. Decker, That Ancient Trail, p. 97; Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island, p. 54; and Souder, pp. 129-316. Souder feels that the buildings on the well-landscaped property could be used either as a house museum or for park-related exhibits.

Site # 41--Wallpack Center

Wallpack Center or the Village of Wallpack is seven miles up the Flat Brook from Flatbrookville. The village is above the maximum pool level of the reservoir. The Wallpack Methodist Church is a tall Victorian-style stone structure at the east end of the one-street town. Built in 1837 on land donated by R. Bell, it served for 34 years and by 1870 the congregation felt that it needed remodeling for "modern use." In 1871 Jacob Roe donated the land for a new church and the present structure was built at a cost of \$1000. The siding is clapboard and the roof slate. The church measures 60 x 38 feet and seats 300, although the congregation in 1892 numbered only 40. The entrance is in the steeple and consists of a flat arched double-paneled door with a Victorian carved head moulding. There are four tall windows down each side of the sanctuary with 16-over-16 light sash. The windows in the basement contain eight-over-eight light sash.

Like the church across and down the road from it, the school is Victorian in style and larger than the average country school. It now serves as the township building. There are three tall windows on the two long sides with a window of the same type on either side of the double entrance door. In the gable is a four-over-four light window. The belfry on the front of the building is square with four posts supporting the open gabled roof. There is a single brick chimney at the rear of the building.

There are seven houses, two of which are the familiar "Upper Delaware Valley Type." Two others are variations of this type but of a later period. Another two are simple two-story and attic houses of vaguely colonial design. The seventh is a new brown, clapboard house. The outbuildings of all the houses are very plain. A store, described by Souder as nondescript, is probably the one operated by Jacob Roe in 1872. All but the modern house, the cinderblock firehouse and the school addition date from the 19th or early 20th centuries. A blacksmith

shop which was operated by Theodore Winans in 1872 has disappeared.⁶ It is proposed that this scenic little village be saved.

Site # 42--Van Campen Inn and Barn

Of all the structures and sites within the boundaries of the recreation area, this two-and-a-half-story stone house is the most significant. The colorful history of the inn has been outlined in Chapter III of this report. The land upon which the inn and barn stand was acquired in 1713 by John Crook, a Kingston merchant, from Joseph Helby, a brewer of London and one of the Proprietors of West Jersey. Crook sold 900 acres, designated the Shapanack tract, to Alexander Rosenkrans and Frederick Schoonmaker in 1729, for 600 pounds. In June of 1731 the land was divided between Rosenkrans and Schoonmaker. The dividing line was a small stream that descends the hill just north of the Van Campen inn and barn. Rosenkrans took the northeast half. He built a house on a plateau 12 or 15 rods west of the road. In 1900 this was the site of Joseph Hull's frame dwelling, presently the Schnure house. Alexander Rosenkrans bought out Schoonmaker in 1742 and, the following year, gave the tract to Harmon Rosenkrans, his elder son. In 1745 he granted the original tract to his youngest son, Johannis.

Isaac Van Campen of Smithfield, Pennsylvania, purchased the land from Harmon Rosenkrans in 1754 and built the inn shortly thereafter. Van Campen had married Magdalena, a sister of Harmon, in 1742. He held the land and other property until 1799, when he deeded it to his son Abraham Van Campen, Jr., not to be confused with Col. Abraham Van Campen of Pahaquarry, who was uncle to Isaac. Abraham, Jr., sold the property to Henry DeWitt, Jr. in 1809. The DeWitt family built the large barn that stands near the inn. They sold the property to John Burke in 1860. During the years that followed the property passed through many hands and in

6. Souder, pp. 132-35; Webb, Sussex County Historical Directory, p. 59 and 139; Dillahunty Field Survey; Honeyman, Northwest New Jersey 1: 504; New Jersey Herald (Newton), March 3, 1892.

1970 was owned by Bernice Haydu, who sold it to the United States government.⁷

The Van Campen Inn, which will be inundated, is built of cut limestone and shows strong Georgian influence with evidence of Dutch influence in the flared eaves. It is comparable in style to some of the more important 18th-century Philadelphia mansions. The present house measures 20 x 60 feet. The physical condition of the building is poor. The wood shingle roof is full of holes and there is a large crack in the south wall. Settlement of the building has caused the wood paneling to separate from the walls at several points. The present front porch is not original. Window and door frames with a few exceptions are of the one-piece type, mortised, tenoned, and pegged together. A two-story kitchen wing at the north end of the structure was removed between 1917 and 1920 but the outline is still visible. This was probably the original building--all that stood during Van Campen's day. The ends of the building have been stuccoed, each containing a large chimney.

The interior of the inn is magnificent with a large central hall featuring chair rails with raised moulding. A wide stairway with black walnut rails leads to the second and third floors. The flooring is wide boards, and is in poor condition. The room to the right of the first floor hall, probably the original parlor, is now used as a kitchen. The fine mantel is badly scarred. There are closets on either side of the fireplace. The one on the right has a curved pine interior with intricately cut butterfly shelves. Some of the wrought iron hinges remain. There is an arched wall cupboard on the left side of the fireplace. The wall has raised paneling of 18th-century style. This room once contained a crested cast iron fire back inscribed "OXFORD 1742", since removed and stored by the park. The room across the hall has the same paneling as the parlor with less intricate cutting on the butterfly shelves. The large arched fireplace still had the wrought iron crane in place in 1967. The first floor ceilings are high and large hemlock beams with beaded edges that support the second floor are exposed.

7. Elizabeth D. Walters, ed., Brief of Title of Isaac Van Campen Inn Property, Shapanack, Walpack TWP. Sussex County, New Jersey, May 1972.

A later study revealed plastered walls, chair rail and backboard behind the cabinets and paneling. Even the original mantels were found there. It seems, then, that the existing, exposed paneling was installed later by John Van Sickle about the same time as the wing was removed. Souder believes this material to be older than the house itself. It is not known where Van Sickle found it.

There are three rooms on the second floor. The large north room has built in cupboards on the fireplace wall. The opposite room is divided into two parts with a partition of wide bead edged tongue-and-groove boards and a matching board-and-batten door. The fireplace wall in these two rooms has been severely modified and the stone wall repaired with rough concrete pargeting. The attic is floored with very wide pine boards. The original framing of the building is visible in the attic area.⁸

The barn, built by John H. DeWitt, was a peculiar long-roofed structure and was the southernmost example of the New World Dutch barn. It possessed an extremely heavy timber system, but was quite different in design from the Pennsylvania German Bank Barns of the vicinity. The framing uprights were hewn oak 12 or 13 inches square and doubled at alternate points. The beams measured 15 x 11 inches and supported the tall hay loft above. The vast loft was so designed that it provided maximum hay storage--far more floor space per square foot than more familiar barn types.⁹ About January 10, 1972, the barn burned to the ground--cause unknown.

8. Souder, pp. 74-77; New Jersey Historic Preservation Survey Form, Historic Records File, DEWA; Decker, That Ancient Trail, p. 90; Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island Recreation Area, p. 41; and Menzies, Before the Waters, pp. 61-65.

9. Souder, p. 78; Hine, Fact and Fancy Old Mine Road, p. 150; New Jersey Historic Preservation Survey Form, Historic Records File, DEWA.

Site # 43--Fort Shapanack (Hull House)

Sketched by Hampton on his 1757 map and referred to as "Fort Johns" or "Headquarters", this was the largest and, as the name indicates, the headquarters for the series of fortifications built along the Delaware during the French and Indian War. The name Shapanack refers to the island nearby and is used by local historians. The name Fort Johns doubtless honors the owner of the land and prominent militia leader, Johannis Rosenkrans. Additional sources for the nomenclature include a John Stevens and John Johnston who built and designed the forts. Fort Shapanack was 120 feet on a side with bastions 15 foot square at three corners and a log structure 15 x 20 feet as the fourth bastion. On the north side was a blockhouse 50 x 24 feet. Within the fort was a stone dwelling house 52 x 26 and a log house 20 x 15. The actual location of the fort is unknown although Ted Brush, who has studied the forts along the Delaware, speculates that it stood on the hill now partially occupied by the home of Mr. and Mrs. Schnure, formerly the Hull House. Another possible location is at the foot of the hill near the Van Campen Inn.

Standing approximately 60 feet above the river flats and at the junction of the road from Sussex Courthouse and the Old Mine Road, the fort was strategically located. With a garrison of about 100, it provided protection and refuge for settlers. At various times during its 27 year history the garrison included colonial militia, county militia, and possibly Continental troops under the command of Pulaski.

Today all that remains are some stone walls and foundations hidden in the grass on the bluff behind the Schnure home, which are generally identified as the ruins of Fort Shapanack. It would be best to determine the exact location and alignment of the fort with an archeological dig before the area is inundated. There is a memorial plaque in the front yard of the Schnure house that notes the site of the fort.¹⁰

10. Brush, "Blockhouses New Jersey Frontier," pp. 40-47; Souder, p. 81; and Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island, p. 42.

The Schnure, formerly Hull, house probably stands on or near the site of Col. John Rosenkrans' home. It was later burned and another structure built in its place which also burned. The present structure was built about 1860 and has been extensively improved. Today it is a modified version of a center-hall colonial house. There are Victorian doors and trim on the interior. The stairway is also of the Victorian era. Some wide pine flooring remains. According to Souder, the most interesting feature is the framing of the first floor. The joists and headers are hewn square timbers mortised and tenoned together.¹¹

Site # 44--Octagonal Church

Located to the north of the Schnure house and across the Newton Road. John Rosenkrans donated this land about 1770 and the eight-sided log structure was built soon after. This Dutch Reformed Church served the residents of Shapanack and Peters Valley for more than 50 years until it was abandoned in 1826. At that time a stone church was built at Peters Valley. Ruins of the building were visible near Shapanack Cemetery as late as 1910 or 1911. Today the site is a grassy field.¹²

Site # 45--Shapanack or Rosenkrans Cemetery

John Rosenkrans donated land for both the church and cemetery with the provision that they would again become part of his farm when no longer used for religious purposes.¹³ Rosenkrans was buried in the cemetery in

11. Souder, p. 80, and Dillahunty Field Survey.

12. Stickney, "Old Mine Road," Wantage Recorder, November 3 and 10, 1911; Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island, p. 54; New Jersey Herald, Mar. 3, 1892; Snell, History Sussex and Warren Counties 1: 329; Mills, Reformed Dutch Church of Wallpack: Historical Discourse, p. 25.

13. Stickney states that Abraham Van Campen, Jr. donated the land for the cemetery. He goes on to say that the cemetery contains the grave of Anna Symmes. Since Anna Symmes died in 1776 and Abraham Van Campen did not come into ownership of the land until after this date, it seems more likely that Rosenkrans was the donor.

1786. He died from complications of a wound received during Sullivan's 1779 campaign. It is believed that Isaac Van Campen was buried here as well as 19 other members of the Van Campen family. Also here is Anna Symmes. Born Anna Tuthill, she married John Cleve Symmes in 1760 and came to the region in 1762. She died on July 25, 1776. John C. Symmes wrote to his daughter Anna, wife of William Henry Harrison, on August 7, 1802, describing the grave as follows:

I want my love to see, perhaps for the last time, your poor mother's grave which is about a half mile from the house that was Col Rosencrans in a graveyard at Shappnock--The burying ground is on a high point of a hill in view of the Delaware River. The yard is surrounded on all sides by woods and bushes which adds to the gloom of the place--A weeping willow out (sic) to be planted by the grave, but this is not season. Perhaps some of her grandsons may live to do this, if I should never be here (sic) in the Spring of the year to do it.¹⁴

No weeping willow stands over Anna Symmes' grave. The cemetery is grown over and most of the stones have fallen or disappeared. Only the stones of Anna Symmes and Jacob Smith--born March 27, 1773; died April 8, 1834--are immediately visible. A huge maple tree standing on the east side of the road north of Van Campen's Inn marks the trail up to the cemetery.¹⁵

14. "The Old Mine Road," Newark Sunday Call, July 15, 1935.

15. Stickney, "Old Mine Road," Wantage Recorder, October 20 and November 17, 1911; Snell, History of Sussex and Warren Counties 1: 196; Menzies, Before the Waters, pp. 57-58; and Fred Schnure to Albert Dillahunt, October 19, 1967, in Historic Records File, DEWA.

Site # 46--Daniel Knight House

The house was once owned by William Henry Harrison through his wife, Anna Symmes. On June 6, 1811, Harrison sold the property to Ira Fuller. The present house, $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles east of Wallpack Center on the mountain road to Haney's Mills, is actually two houses joined in the form of an ell and connected only at the first floor level. Both were built about 1850-60. The structure is one-and-a-half-stories high and rests on a stone basement. Because of its hillside location, it appears as two-and-a-half-stories. Built of frame and covered with clapboards, it is in very poor condition. Most of the window frames have been removed. Holes have been cut in the wide floor boards and the stairway in the front portion has been removed. Although there is a brick chimney at the north end, there is no fireplace--the front chimney rests on a wooden subbase on the second floor and, in the rear, the chimney was carried to the first floor line. The front rooms on the first floor had simple trim and are six-over-six-light type with two eyebrow windows on the second level of the rear wing.¹⁶ The house was salvaged by its present owner.

Site # 47--Nicholas Tillman House

Another of the "Upper Delaware Valley Type" with four eyebrow windows on the second floor. The house has been considerably changed and though the structure was supposedly built about 1812 only the stone basement wing walls and the foundation appear to be that early. A one-story-and-loft stone spring house and the ruins of an outdoor bake-oven stand nearby. Both are in poor condition. A 19th-century frame wash house, barns, and other farm buildings are included in the complex.¹⁷

16. Souder, pp. 177-78; Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island, p. 53; and Decker, That Ancient Trail, p. 98.

17. Souder, p. 180, and Dillahunty Field Survey.

Site # 48--Wallpack Center Methodist Cemetery

Most of the markers are post-1850, the earliest dating from 1812. The cemetery is located near the junction of the Brink and Mountain Road about .6 of a mile east of Wallpack Center.¹⁸

Site # 49--Losey House

Pictured in Decker's Ancient Trail, the Losey house today bears little resemblance to that structure. In 1950 it was modernized with the addition of another story to the original one-and-a-half-stories and remodeled into a large standard "colonial" house. The most interesting old feature is the large stone spring house which was partially ruined during the 1955 flood. The roof, of old wood shingles, is in poor condition. The main house could be utilized as an employee residence and the spring house stabilized and possibly restored.¹⁹

Site # 50--Isaac Rundle House

Located a mile north of Wallpack or Bevans Road, this is a simple one-and-a-half-story stone structure approximately 15 x 25 feet. There are two rooms on the first floor with shed additions to the rear. A small Victorian front porch has been added to this early 19th-century structure. The front of the house has been plastered, but the end stonework is still visible. The roof is slate. Windows in the end gables contain six-over-six-light sash. At the entrance are original six-panel doors and matching panels in the deep reveals. Interior trim is simple. The two mantels are original and good examples of the 1820-30 period, although the fireplace openings themselves are walled up. Nearby is

18. Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island, p. 55.

19. Souder, p. 179.

a small stone spring house in an advanced state of decay. The farm complex was completed by a group, which burned in 1972, of long low barns sided in vertical boarding with ornamental louvers.²⁰

The land was owned at an early period by Col. John Rosenkrans. 671 acres were divided between his two sons and the area including the Rundle property passed to Levi Rosenkrans. He sold 175 acres to Andrew Snable in 1801 who built the house. Timothy Shay then acquired the property and sold it to Isaac Rundle in 1857. The Rundle family owned it until the 1920's. In the early 1940's this land was part of the Flatbrook Experimental Farms.²¹ The park hopes to save the house and spring house.

Site # 51--Jane Layton House

On Brook Road a mile south of Bevans, the Jane Layton house consists of three architecturally distinct units. The oldest portion, 18 x 25 feet, is a one-and-a-half-story "Upper Delaware Valley Type" with four eyebrow windows on the second floor. A modern porch has been added on the front. In the last half of the 19th century a two-and-a-half-story wing measuring 15 x 20 was built. To this a flat roof extension was added which, in 1967, served as a sporting goods store. The house is clapboard, rests on a stone foundation, and is roofed with slate. The Laytons acquired the house in 1854.²²

20. Souder, pp. 136-37; Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island, p. 54; and Dillahunt Field Survey.

21. Decker, That Ancient Trail, p. 107.

22. Souder, p. 138; Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island, p. 40; and Decker, That Ancient Trail, p. 124.

CHAPTER VII

Peters Valley and Vicinity

This designation refers to the sites south of Nomanock Island and centering about the crossroads known as Bevans, the Corners, or Peters Valley. Most of the houses were built in the decades before and after 1800. Today Peters Valley is the center of a thriving craft industry under the sponsorship of the National Park Service.

Site # 52--Valley Brook Farm

This well-preserved farm complex just south of Bevans will be retained by the National Park Service for some compatible use. It contains a two-and-a-half-story white clapboard house, several barns and outbuildings--all in excellent shape--and a series of stone dams, mill races, and sluiceways. There is an iron overshot water wheel in position beside a small stone mill. Norm Souder describes the main house as follows:

The large two and one half story white clapboard house is the central hall type with a two story wing extending from the rear. There is a small, hip-roofed entrance porch on the front and a tall porch on the inside corner of the juncture of the main building and rear wing. The columns on this porch are slender and extend from the first floor level up two stories, to the cornice of the house roof. The porch is incorporated within the gable roof of the rear wing. In addition, there is a small side entrance porch on the main house adjacent to the high columned rear porch.

The roof of the house is slate with recently constructed, or reconstructed chimneys.¹

1. Souder, p. 128, and Dillahunty Field Survey.

Site # 53--Bevans (Peters Valley) Church and Cemetery

This two-story white clapboard church was built in 1838, at a cost of \$1400, during the ministry of the Rev. James B. Hyndshaw. The contractor for the building was James Bevans. Hyndshaw departed the next year and the minister, Rev. R. Pitts, did not arrive until April 1841. He left in 1860. After an interim of one year, Rev. Gilbert Garretson assumed responsibility for the church and held the position for more than 20 years. Attendance began to decline after 1920 and in 1956 the land and buildings were sold to the Bevans Cemetery Association by Frank Stoll, sole surviving trustee and Elder of the Dutch Reformed Church of Wallpack.

Today the structure stands empty. The design is a Greek Revival modification. There are four windows on each long side at both levels. All contain twelve-over-twelve light sash with panes of old handblown glass and all possess shutters. There is a window on each side of the double entrance door and three at the second floor level. The entrance door frame and paneling shows early Victorian influence. The roof is slate. In 1967 the interior had a balcony along each side, an old altar, and two old stoves. All the pews had been removed. The well-kept cemetery surrounding the church also dates from 1838. Standing 100 yards south of the center of Peters Valley, the church cemetery should be maintained in its present state as part of the historic scene.²

Site # 54--Bevans Rock Shelter

Off Ridge Road and a half-mile west of Peters Valley, the shelter sits on a ridge 300 feet above the river and faces east. A mile from

2. Snell, History of Sussex and Warren Counties 1: 421; Mills, Reformed Dutch Church of Wallpack: Historical Discourse, p. 26; Notes of Mrs. Elizabeth Walters on Peters Valley in Historic Records File, DEWA; Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island, p. 40; and Souder, p. 145.

the river, it was used by both the prehistoric and historic Indians who dwelt in the region.³

Site # 55--Robert Stoll House

The property on which the house stands was acquired in 1812 by Daniel Dingman who sold it 14 years later to Henry McDonold and Robert Stoll for \$600. Stoll apparently bought out McDonold and it remained in the Stoll family until 1895. The Bevans family gained title to the property around 1917 and held it until 1948 when it was purchased by Violet Mitchell. She sold it to the Federal Government in 1970.⁴ With its very thick stone walls the house is estimated by Souder to be early 18th century. It may have been built by Dingman or possibly was on the property when he acquired it.

The house is a story-and-a-half stone building with attic and has been considerably altered. On the east end an old window remains at the second-floor level and another in the gable at the attic line. The other window opening on the second floor has been walled shut. A side door on the first floor has been partially filled in to provide a modern window. At the rear of the house is a large sliding glass door leading to a flagstone patio. A side porch has also been added. The large stone chimney and original fireplace remain. The roof is of asphalt shingles and the long shed dormers on the front and rear are late additions. Next to the old stone house is a frame structure of undetermined age which is also used as a residence. Because of its age and style Souder believes the stone house should ultimately be restored after careful architectural investigation.⁵

3. Schrabisch, "Indian Habitations in Sussex County", 32, and Dillahunt Field Survey.

4. Chain of Title prepared by Mrs. Elizabeth Walters in Historic Records File, DEWA.

5. Souder, pp. 139-140, and Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island, pp. 39-40. The house is .2 mile west of Peters Valley.

Site # 56--Peters Valley

The small community of Peters Valley is located on land purchased by Peter Van Ness and became known as a result as Peters Valley or "The Corners." Bevans was a later settler whose name was attached to the post office. An 1800 map of the town shows approximately a half-dozen residences, a store owned by Robert Stoll, the First Universalist Free Church, blacksmith shop, wheelwright shop, cooper, and hotel. Today the number of structures has not decreased appreciably though their functions have changed. The center of activity is the Peters Valley General Store where products of the Peters Valley Craftsmen are sold.⁶ Only a few of the structures will be discussed below.

The old Dutch Reformed Church was located on the narrow angled "Y" at the village intersection. Built about 1826, it was abandoned in 1838 when the present wooden church was constructed. That year Robert Stoll purchased the building and a half-acre of property in a sheriff's sale. He converted it into a hotel. In 1880 J. W. Bunnell was operating a hotel there and as late as 1911 it still served the same purpose. The building was later converted into a residence. The property passed in and out of the Stoll family until 1883. It was owned by John Westbrook until 1902 and then by the Titman family up to 1943. After passing through several other hands it became the property of the Government and now serves as a residence for the store manager. Today the building bears no resemblance to a church. The first floor is of stone, the second is stuccoed, and the roof is asphalt shingle. It looks very much like a 20th century house.⁷

Across the Dingman's Ferry Road from the church is the Peters Valley store. A two-story stone structure with stucco coating, it was still

6. Webb, Sussex County Historical Directory, p. 49; Snell, History Sussex and Warren Counties 1: 423; Hopkins, Map of Sussex County (1860); and Dillahunt Field Survey.

7. Stickney, "Old Mine Road," Wantage Recorder, November 10, 1911; Snell, History Sussex and Warren Counties 1: 421; Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island, p. 39; Souder, p. 143; and Chain of Title prepared by Mrs. Elizabeth Walters, Historic Records File, DEWA.

functioning as a country store in 1967. By 1971 it had become the outlet for a local colony of craftsmen. Two sheds have been added to the original building: one on the rear is built of cinder block and the other at the side is framed with asbestos siding. The front porch is original although the wooden floor and steps have been replaced by concrete.⁸

To the north and 200 feet up the hill from the store is "an architectural curiosity," known as the Greek Revival House. It was built by Henry Marvin sometime before his death in 1851 and was located on part of the store lot.⁹ Although the properties were handled as two lots, they were generally sold together. It is a two-and-a-half-story clapboard structure on a stone basement. The porch with its four extra large square, wood-framed columns was added later. The ground floor or basement entrance is plain. The first floor has a door, sidelights, and transom opening onto a porch. The porch on the second floor is enclosed while that on the first is open. Used at one time as a residence, the building now serves as a combination residence and work area for several craftsmen.¹⁰

To the north of both the store and Greek Revival House is the Upper Treible House, so designated to differentiate it from the Lower Treible House that stands west of the store. The upper house was the First Universalist Church. It was erected in 1848, after the organization of that society the previous year, on land donated by John Bell of Branchville. For many years the church was served by a supply pastor. During 1878 the building was repaired and on July 13, 1879, was rededicated. Operating

8. Souder, p. 144.

9. Descendants of Reinold and Matthew Marvin (Boston), 1904, T. R. Marvin & Son, p. 122.

10. Dillahunty Field Survey and Souder, p. 141.

for 71 years, the church closed in 1920. In 1922 the trustees of the First Universalist Church sold the property to George Van Sickle for \$400.¹¹

Site # 57--The Youngs-Smith House

Built about 1799 by George Smith of Upper Mt. Bethel (Northampton Co., Pa.), this is a two-and-a-half-story stone house two miles south of Dingman's Ferry Bridge.¹² There is a one-and-a-half-story clapboard wing attached to one end. In 1942 the house was the headquarters for a ranch on the property. It was owned by Enos Harker in 1967 and was being partially restored by Architect John Bruce Dodd.¹³

Site # 58--Jacob Smith-Thomas Roe-John Bruce Dodd House

This house was built about the same time as and is just north of the Youngs-Smith House. A date found on the attic flooring indicates construction in 1813.¹⁴ The two-and-a-half-story stone house measures about 20 x 30 feet. A porch has been added on the front and a two-story clapboard structure on the east end. It was owned originally by Jacob Smith, Sr. and then by Dr. Thomas Roe who married Smith's daughter, Susana. The house has original long hand hewn beams extending the entire length with cross beams pegged to them, one of which carries the inscribed date mentioned above. The wood floors, of random width, are original. There are

11. Snell, History Sussex and Warren Counties 1: 422; and Notes on Peters Valley by Elizabeth D. Walters in Historic Records File, DEWA.

12. Chain of Title prepared by Mrs. E. Walters, Historic Records File, DEWA.

13. Souder, p. 147, and Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island, p. 40.

14. Decker, That Ancient Trail, p. 119, indicates a construction date of 1795. Souder mentions the board dated 1813 and Cary maintains that the date, in Roman numerals, is 1803.

two tongues on a board and, on the alternating boards, two grooves. The present owners (the Dodds) have added a powder room in the center of the house on the first floor and a bath on the second floor. They have used antique blue paint trim on the woodwork in the living room. The chimneys on the stone part of the house appear to be original and a concrete block chimney has been added to the frame wing for heating purposes.¹⁵ According to the will of Jacob Smith, Sr. (1832) and to the recollections of the Kyte family who occupied the house from 1887 to 1919, this farm was noted for its fruit orchards, first apples and peaches and later, cherries. It was known as "Cherry Hill Farm" during the tenure of the Kytes.¹⁶

Site # 59--Birchenhaugh House

The Birchenhaugh, Smith-Roe-Dodd, and Youngs-Smith houses all stand along the Old Mine Road. Together they form an interesting group that, if restored, would preserve the appearance of this portion of the road and could be used for employee housing. Unlike the first two, Birchenhaugh is a two-and-a-half-story frame structure with wood shingle siding. It is reputedly old and sits on a cut-stone basement that may predate the present house. The style is country Victorian with simple gable roofs covered with slate.¹⁷

Site # 60--Carmer Farm

On the 1860 map of Sussex County prepared by Carlos Allen this site is identified as the Misses Carmer. The present-day road that passes by the farm and connects with the bridge at Dingman's Ferry did not exist in

15. Souder, p. 148; Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island, p. 39.

16. Chain of Title prepared by E. Walters.

17. Souder, p. 149.

1860. The location of the farm has been slightly altered to the north rather than the south of the road from Centerville (Layton). Nothing more is presently known about the site.

Site # 61--Frank Stoll's House, "The Herons' Nest"

The central and oldest part of the 25 x 60 foot structure was built in 1830, as is painted on the wall near the eave line. A frame stucco-covered addition on the south was constructed about 1860 while the date of the stone portion on the north remains undetermined. Nicholas Tillman and Reuben Shope built the first section, possibly for John Ennis or his son Cornelius who operated the nearby ferry. The original character of the house has been lost in the several additions. The structure has been modified for use as a residence and diamond leaded casement windows and stone porches have obliterated any remaining original features.¹⁸

Site # 62--Ennis Ferry House

Like the previous site this structure will be inundated by the waters of the Tocks Island Dam. Built on a hill, the house is a one-and-a-half-story "Upper Delaware Valley Type" with five small eyebrow windows on the second floor. The rear, due to the slope of the hill, measures two-and-a-half-stories. There is a wood shingle roof with brick chimneys located at either end of the house. The porch on the south end is a later addition. Located nearer to the river, this structure is more likely than the Frank Stoll house to have served as the home for operators of the Ennis Ferry.¹⁹

18. Decker, That Ancient Trail, p. 117; Souder, p. 82; and Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island, pp. 44-45.

19. Souder, p. 83.

Site # 63--Fisher School and Cemetery

The original site of the Fisher school was on the east side of the road .8 mile north of Dingman's Bridge. The building was later moved .6 miles to the north. It stands on a concrete foundation and bears little resemblance to an old school house. It is now a tall one-story structure with a hip roof covered with asbestos shingles. The building has been extended on the front, and the original windows have been reduced in height, as evidenced by the joints in the clapboard siding. It is presently used as a private residence. Fisher Cemetery is a well-kept plot 60 x 100 feet. Though most of the stones postdate 1860, the grave of Evan Bevans, a revolutionary War soldier, is found here.²⁰

Site # 64--Alonzo Depue House

The exact date of construction of this house is unknown. The main stone portion was built in two different sections. A frame addition extends to the rear. Prior to 1800 the land was owned by Isaac Van Auken. On May 21, 1810, John Nyce purchased a portion of Van Auken's holdings--the remainder was sold to John Loder. On July 23, 1813, Nyce purchased Loder's property. It is generally believed that the first section and possibly the second were built by Nyce. When Nyce died in 1842 the property, including the house, passed to his son William. William Nyce borrowed on the land and was unable to repay the loan. The land was sold to James Nyce for \$3,300 at a sheriff's sale in late January 1847. On June 1, 1857 he sold the land to Elisha Depue for \$8,000. The sale totaled about 200 acres. In 1872 Depue borrowed on the land, failing to repay the \$9,000 loan. The property was again sold at public sale, this time to the Trustees for Support of Public Schools of New Jersey, who 15 days later sold it to Benjamin and George Depue. It remained in the Depue family, passing from George to his wife Mary, and in 1914 to her

20. Souder, Addenda, p. (14); Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island, p. 47; Menzies, Before the Waters, p. 39; and Dillahunty Field Survey.

seven children. In 1955 the last three surviving children were living in the house. That year Henrietta Depue died and the two survivors, Alonzo and Lura, remained there until their respective deaths in 1962 and 1965. It has been unoccupied since at least 1967.

The house has three large brick chimneys in the two-and-a-half-story stone portion. The original windows and doors have been replaced. The exterior of the two older sections has been stuccoed and the roof is of slate. The mantels are a simple late Provincial Federal style. The kitchen fireplace contains an oven. There are two winding stairs in a rectangular boxed enclosure. A weather station is located in the field next to the house as a memorial to Alonzo, who was a faithful weather observer.²¹

21. Most of the information on the Depue House came from a report of Seasonal Ranger, Frank Laubach, Historic Records File, DEWA. Also within the file is a New Jersey Historic Preservation Survey Form on the house. Additional sources include Decker, That Ancient Trail, p. 116; Souder, p. 151; and Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island, p. 46. The house is located two miles north of Dingman's Bridge on the Old Mine Road.

CHAPTER VIII

Nomanock and Minisink

The first concentration of settlers south of Port Jervis was in the vicinity of the Indian village of Minisink. The Dutch began to take up homes in the area about 1725 and within 15 years a considerable village had grown up. Today only three of the original houses remain. The old village is at the northern edge of the recreation area and several of the sites are menaced by the proposed lake behind Tocks Island Dam.

Site # 65--Gumaer House

Measuring about 20 x 30 feet, the Gumaer house is located 2.7 miles north of Dingman's Bridge. It is presently unoccupied and deteriorating. The property was acquired in 1838 by George Gumaer from Abraham Brass and has remained in the family since that time. The Gumaer family had been residents in the vicinity since 1690 when Peter Gumaer settled near present-day Port Jervis, New York. A one-and-a-half-story frame structure, the house has lost most of its original form, owing to front and rear shed additions. The roof is standing seam tin and the siding clapboard of varying widths and design, according to the period of the addition. The windows vary from one-over-one to 12-over-12 light sash. Traces of iron oxide red paint are visible on some of the rear siding.¹

Site # 66-Anson V. Johnson House

An exact date of construction for the house is not known. Souder dates it to about 1840. Cary and Decker indicate an earlier date, shortly after 1800. The house, located .6 mile north of the Gumaer house, is a two-story center-hall frame structure on a stone basement.

1. Souder, p. 152, and Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island, p. 45.

One distinguishing feature is the exposed stone chimney construction at the first floor level, common to earlier houses in the area. Siding is white clapboard and the roof slate. A central entrance with flanking narrow double-hung sidelights is original, but the front entrance porch is not. There are brick chimneys at both ends of the house and a later cobblestone fireplace and chimney at the back of the house. One end and the rear of the house have been stuccoed.²

Site # 67--Fuller House (Indian Valley Farm)

Built by Jacob Van Etten in the 1750's the house has burned three times. The first floor and basement of the house date from the early period. The stone is laid in an ashlar pattern similar to the Ennis and Everitt houses--two of the three remaining houses included in the Minisink Village. Much of the blue limestone came from the parsonage built for Rev. J. C. Fryenmuth that stood nearby. Built in 1745 by the four Dutch Reformed Congregations, the parsonage burned within the first decade. A cornerstone in the basement portion has the initials J. C. F. and a date that can be read either 1751 or 1754. The frame second floor and attic of the house were built in 1912, the year after the last fire. The stone portion has been much altered with former window and door openings filled in to fit later construction. Souder suggests that only the basement and first floor walls be preserved and the structure shown as a stabilized ruin. The site is 3.5 miles north of Dingman's Bridge.³

2. Decker, That Ancient Trail, p. 45; Souder, p. 153; and Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island, p. 45. Souder notes the good condition of the house and recommends it be used for park housing or some related usage.

3. Souder, p. 154; Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island, pp. 45-46, and Menzies, Before the Waters, p. 37.

Site # 68--Ruins Fort Nomanock

The ruin generally described as Fort Nomanock is actually the house built by Cornelius Westbrook, one of three brothers who settled in the Minisink area. According to the ledger entries made by John Stevens who was in charge of money for the construction of the first four forts along the Delaware, the fort itself was built of wood. Stevens' journals in the New Jersey Historical Society show a considerable number of wood deliveries to Fort Nomanock. An October 1757 description of the fort by Hampton lists a 20-foot-square blockhouse, a stone dwelling 60 x 22 feet, and a small log house. The structures were within a 65-foot-square palisade.⁴

The fort had an active history. In April, 1780 James P. McCarty crossed the river looking for stock that he was pasturing on the Pennsylvania side. Sighting some Indians, McCarty returned to the river and hid, hoping that come nightfall someone would come after him. In the evening his brother and another man, curious as to his whereabouts, crossed the river, saw James, mistook him for an Indian, and shot him. When they learned his true identity they brought him to Fort Nomanock where he informed Captain Peter Westbrook of the Indians. The next morning, April 21, Westbrook, Lieutenant Ennis, and Captain Van Etten led a force across the river, landing near Pow Wow Hill. Westbrook divided his forces: half went over the hill while the remainder ascended the creek. The first group sighted two Indians and wounded one. The two columns reunited and continued up the Raymondskill. They were attacked near Bastion Spring and while some of the force stood and fought, the remainder fled. Fourteen men, including Westbrook, Captain Van Etten, and Lieutenant Ennis, were killed. Their bodies were recovered the next day and all were buried in the Minisink graveyard. Two of the enemy were also found--one, a white man, carried a diary in

4. Souder notes that the ruins are of a building 20 x 36 feet. Hampton states that Nomanock was the same as Van Campen's Fort where the main house was 60 x 22. The Van Campen house is actually 56 x 25. Souder, pp. 88 and 54.

which 390 men were said to have departed Niagara early in March and moved south, dividing into small raiding parties. There were no further threats from the Indians.⁵ Additional events involving Fort Nomanock are outlined in Chapter III of this report.

As late as the mid-1960's the ruin of the stone building at Fort Nomanock was still visible with the end walls partially standing and the side walls, roof, partitions, and floor fallen into the basement. Some of the sawn lath and cut nails were still discernable. By 1971 all the cut limestone had been hauled away and little remained except a historic marker. The location of the fort is on a hill overlooking the river and the Pennsylvania shore 3.7 miles north of Dingman's Bridge.⁶

Site # 69--Fryenmuth's Parsonage Site

In February 1745 each of the four churches served by the Rev. Fryenmuth contributed toward the construction of a parsonage, which burned sometime before 1755. A second parsonage served until about 1838 when the churches of Montague and Deer Park (Port Jervis) ended their association. The three surviving Dutch Reformed Churches sold the parsonage with each receiving 1/3 of the sale price. Apparently the Montague congregation acquired it as a parsonage at this time. The exact location of the site is not known. Tradition states it was within a stone's throw of Fort Nomanock and overlooked Nomanock Island.⁷ Both the site of Fort Nomanock and the parsonage will be inundated.

5. Stickney, "Old Mine Road," Wantage Recorder, December 1 and 8, 1911; Brush "Blockhouses New Jersey Frontier," pp. 50-52; and C. G. Hine, Fact, Fancy and Romance of the Old Mine Road (1908), p. 147.

6. Souder, p. 88; Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island, p. 46; and Dillahunty Field Survey.

7. Snell, History Sussex and Warren Counties 1: 29; Stickney, "Old Mine Road," Wantage Recorder, December 22, 1911; and Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island, p. 46.

Site # 70--Ennis House

Only three of the original houses that made up Minisink Village still exist. The William Ennis House, currently owned by Dr. Smetana of New York City, is the southernmost of the three. William Ennis, Jr. was born in 1711 near Marbletown, New York and came to the Delaware Valley about 1738. He married Elizabeth Quick, sister of the famous Indian fighter Tom Quick, and settled in the area. Ennis was a school-teacher as well as being active in the church. In 1753 he purchased a farm in present-day Sandyston Township from Richard Gardner, one of the Jersey Proprietors. Ennis lived on the property until his death when it passed to his son-in-law, Simon Cortright. Upon Cortright's death it passed to the Jacob Kyte Family, who held it for two generations. In the 1930's it was owned by Hiram C. C. Snook of Hainesville and by 1942 became the property of Dr. Smetana.⁸

An inscription between the front windows of this small gray stone house read either 7.3. 1751, or T.B. 1751, indicating the year of construction or possibly the initials of the builder.⁹ He may have leased the land prior to purchase and constructed the house or it may have been built by another tenant of Gardner. The stone house is about 20 feet square with clapboard gables, wood shingle roof, and a large brick chimney on the north end. There are two wide windows on the east with stone arches over them. The right hand window originally served as a door. The windows are broader than they are high. On the south end of the structure a series of frame additions have been attached to convert the single-room house to modern use. The house is 3 miles south of the

8. Decker, That Ancient Trail, p. 113; Bailey, Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families, pp. 542-43; and Stickney, "Old Mine Road," Wantage Recorder, December 22, 1911.

9. There is disagreement as to what exactly the inscription says. This author thinks the inscription looks more like T.B. than the month and day of year. The 1751 is, however, unmistakable.

New Jersey Route 521/ U.S. Highway 206 junction and down a lane 100 yards west of Route 521.¹⁰ This house, which of the three Minisink houses is closest to its original condition, will be endangered by the lake behind Tocks Island Dam. A dike should be built around it.

Site # 71--Westbrook-Bell House

Another of the original Minisink houses, it remained in the same family for nine generations, passing into the Bell Family through marriage. Burson Bell, the son of Clementina Westbrook, sold the property in 1956 to 1957 to the George Brownings. The present owner is Colin Browning. It is located $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of the Ennis House.

The story-and-a-half stone house was built about 1730 by Johannes Westbrook. Jr., one of three brothers who settled in the village of Minisink (Anthony purchased 240 acres on Minisink Island and the Jersey shore in 1724, and Cornelius built a house that was part of Fort Nomanock). Johannes settled on one of three five-acre tracts surveyed by Cornelius Low on April 7, 1725 (Anthony located on the second and Jan Cortright on the third). Johannes later purchased a hundred acres from Synacop, a Delaware Indian, on December 26, 1730, for five pounds. In June of 1731 he sold three acres for a school and cemetery. By this time presumably the house had been built. Westbrook lived on the land until his death; then the property passed to Abraham, either his son or grandson. It was passed down within the family until its sale to the Brownings in the mid-1950's.

The house itself may have been built in two stages with the larger story-and-a-half portion being built before the smaller wing that still contains the original kitchen. The stone walls of the house have been patched and repaired on many occasions and original window sash replaced

10. Souder, p. 84; Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island, p. 46; and New Jersey Historic Preservation Survey Form on the Ennis House in Historic Records File, DEWA.

with late period types. The interior has been greatly altered. During the 1860's it was gutted and the central chimney removed at the first floor line. There is a huge semi-circular stone foundation in the basement that supported the fireplace. All the woodwork in the main part of the house is of the Victorian period. That of the smaller section is the original flat trim but the present large fireplace and mantel are replacements. Under the kitchen, which makes up most of the ell, is a cellar designed for refuge during Indian attacks. By removing several loose floor boards a tunnel is exposed in a ravine beside the house.¹¹

Site # 72--Black Farmhouse and Outbuilding

Located 2.2 miles south of the junction of U.S. 206 and New Jersey Route 521, the main house is a two-and-a-half-story structure on a stone basement, with clapboard siding. The Federal style of the house is uncommon in the area. The house is said to have been built about 1795 and the interior appears to be in nearly original condition. North of the main house is a one-story stone building with wood shingle roof that may have served as a spring house, though its exact function is not known. It measures only 8 x 10, or 8 x 12 feet, has a board-and-batten door on the south and small window openings on the east and west walls. Both the original door and window frames are missing.¹²

11. Among the sources used in this brief description of the Westbrook/Bell/Browning house were the following: Bailey, Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses, pp. 550-51; Decker, That Ancient Trail, p. 111; New Jersey Historic Preservation Survey Form in DEWA files; Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island, p. 45; Souder, pp. 86-87; and an unidentified magazine article entitled, "Outstanding Defense Briefs 1966-67: A Defense Brief for the Westbrook Browning House on the Old Mine Road . . ." in a file folder labeled "Historic Structures" in DEWA Historic Records Files.

12. Souder, pp. 155-56, and Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island, 46.

Site # 73--Fort Westbrook

During the quarter-century of intermittent Indian Hostility along the Delaware many families fortified their homes. Though the established forts provided troops for pursuit and protection, the Indians struck at individual dwellings. Fort Westbrook was the residence of Anthony Westbrook, one of the brothers who settled in the Minisink area in 1725. The site is halfway between the Westbrook-Bell house and the Montague/Sandystone boundary. The structure existed and was in fair condition as late as 1890 when historian Charles Stickney photographed it.¹³ In 1940, Dr. Charles A. Philhower, an archeologist who wrote extensively on prehistoric life along the river, dismantled the stone structure which had fallen into ruin, transported the stone to his property a half-mile south of the site, and incorporated it into a cottage he was constructing. Philhower used about one-third of the stone, leaving an equal amount at the site and another third in the field south of the new cottage. The remnants of the building lay undisturbed until 1967 when the archeological section of the Sussex County Historical Society excavated a portion of the old house. The following year they planned to utilize a backhoe to remove some of the rubble. Fearing that there would be severe destruction of the site, the New Jersey State Museum at Trenton moved to excavate the site. Their work has provided most of the information on the house.¹⁴

The Anthony Westbrook house was a one-story structure measuring 35 x 30 feet with a large attic and basement, and a large central chimney

13. The photo appears in the Wantage Recorder of December 29, 1911, and is dated 1890. It was also used by Stickney's daughter Amelia S. Decker in her 1932 study on the Old Mine Road.

14 The report, "The Westbrook Fort Site, Sussex County, New Jersey," was done under contract with the National Park Service. Written by Revell Carr and submitted by Patricia Marchiando, fulfilling purchase orders 950-601 and 950-603, it was completed in September, 1909. There are copies in the park and in the Division of Archeology, National Park Service.

and fireplace. The gable ends were clapboarded and the roof appears in photographs to be shingled, but the abundance of sheet metal found during excavation would indicate a roof of this material at some period in the 19th century. The building was refloored during the 19th century and the interior walls plastered. Windows were few: one with twelve-light sash on the southeast, a nine-light sash on the southwest and two windows and two doors on the northeast or front of the house. There was a window in the southeast and presumably another in the northeast gable. The southeastern one was nine-light sash.

Despite the designation Fort Westbrook, archeological evidence indicates that the house served as a farm home during most of its existence. There were no military artifacts found. Its inhabitants lived a comfortable, but not extravagant life. The removal of the structural remains in 1940 eliminated a fourth Minisink house.

Site # 74--The Everitt House

The northernmost of the three original Minisink Village houses, it stands very near the road. Originally the land was deeded to Julian Westfall and Jacob Kuykendall. Just after the Revolution it passed into the ownership of the Everitt family. In 1942 it was owned by William Brace of Nutley, New Jersey, and 25 years later belonged to the Charles Braces.

The house has been extensively altered, but evidence of original construction is visible in the stone arches over the door and windows. Gray limestone cut in blocks and laid up comprises the front of the building, while the sides and back are built of rubble. The frame, story-and-a-half rear wing is the familiar "Upper Delaware Valley Type." Modernization has included three dormers in the front of the gable roof, a roof-covering of red Mediterranean tiles, and two large picture windows in the south end. The concrete and iron railed patio also comes from the 1920-30 renovation. Because of the extensive alterations,

Souder believes that the house, if saved, should be used for employee housing rather than restoring it to original appearance.¹⁵

Site # 75--Site of the Great Minisink Village

This large village directly south of Minisink Island on a high level bench overlooking the Delaware was one of the headquarter villages of the Munsee division of the Delaware Indians. There was also a camp-site on the island itself. The village was a major crossroads for trails extending in all directions. It appears that lodge sites are intermingled with burials, but more likely, the burial ground lay to the east of the village proper. When the first settlers reached the region in the early decades of the 18th century the Delawares were still residing in the village. Soon, however, they began to drift west. During these early years the Indians and Dutch settlers maintained a friendly relationship. The site is on the Browning property, owners of the Westbrook-Bell house.¹⁶

Site # 76--Minisink Church and Cemetery

This is the site Johannis Westbrook deeded in 1731 to several of his neighbors for use as a cemetery and school. The earliest tombstone dates to 1736. About 1740 the first Minisink Church was built on the site. The graves of early families such as the Westbrooks, Cortrights, Ennis' and others are found here. The 22 soldiers who died in the battle of Raymondskill or Conashaugh in 1780 are also buried here. A single granite stone marks the grave.

15. Souder, p. 157; Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island, p. 45; and Decker, That Ancient Trail, p. 112.

16. Schrabisch, "Indian Habitations in Sussex County," New Jersey Geological Survey Bulletin 13 (1915), 28.

Site # 77--Old House or Stone House

At various times during its existence a school house, and possibly a gun factory and shoe factory, this small stone building is an early structure built of rubble fieldstone. It is a story-and-a-half high with a basement. The brick chimney is a replacement of the earlier chimney. The roof is composition shingle. The door is an old, beaded-edge, board-and-batten type.¹⁷ In the fall of 1972, the New Jersey highway department surveyed a new roadline through the center of the structure. Public interest may be able to save it.

Site # 78--Minisink Church

Built in 1819-21, the church has since been converted into a maintenance shed and garage for the township of Montague. A new church built about 1900 stands across the road next to the cemetery. These two structures were used successively by the Minisink or Montague congregation that dates back to Rev. Frynmuth.¹⁸

Site # 79--Armstrong House

The older frame portion was built by Anthony Westbrook about 1790 and the stone section added later. The main house is an excellent example of early Dutch architecture, excepting the use of wood rather than stone. Two-and-a-half-stories high, it is covered with edge beaded clapboards applied with wrought nails.¹⁹ The roof is the Dutch gambrel type.

17. Souder, Addenda p. (39).

18. For a history of the church, see R. W. Blasbery and J. Everitt, Two and One Quarter Centuries on Old Mine Road (1962). The above also incorporates Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island, p. 48, and Dillahunt Field Survey.

19. The fabric of the nails is subject to question.

There was a two-story porch across the front, the upper level of which has been removed. The large end chimneys provided a fireplace in every room. Windows are six-over-six light sash except those on the second floor which are four-over-four. The date of the stone addition is open to question; most sources date it to 1843, but Souder indicates an 1813 construction. The story-and-a-half kitchen wing contains traces of an old stone oven built on one end wall. There is a narrow porch across the front. Mr. George Armstrong, the present owner, states that the original mantels in each of the 13 rooms have been maintained, but that some of the fireplaces have been closed up. Originally the Armstrong house was the center of an impressive complex that included a sawmill, store, blacksmith shop, post office, distillery, ferry landing, cider mill and farm. During one period it was a stopping place for raftsmen.²⁰

Site # 80--Blockhouse Hill

Due east of the Armstrong house a hill rises to an elevation of 673 feet, 150 to 170 feet higher than the surrounding territory to the west. Known locally as Blockhouse Hill, it was the site of one or more forts during the period of Indian hostility. Theodore Brush places three fortified structures in the general vicinity: Fort Shipecong--exact location unknown; Shimer's Fort--presumably the Abraham Shimer house--; and Brinks Fort that probably was opposite Quick's Island. Fort Shipecong could have been the blockhouse on the hill or it may have been another structure that has since disappeared. One author locates the blockhouse of Blockhouse Hill "just across the way from the house of Captain Shimer."²¹ Presumably it was from this fort that aid came to Abraham Shimer during his 1777 clash with Indians. Little is known of

20. Souder, pp. 164-65; Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island, pp. 48-49; Decker, That Ancient Trail, p. 134; and New Jersey Historic Preservation Survey Form on the site in files DEWA.

21. Henry C. Beck, The Roads of Home ; Lanes and Legends of New Jersey (New Brunswick, 1956), p. 5. Beck visited the site in 1955 or '56.

the blockhouse itself. It apparently was commanded by a Capt. James Bonnell in 1782. All surface evidence of a blockhouse has disappeared.²²

Site # 81--Mill Foundations (Quicks Mill)

There are foundations on both sides of New Jersey Route 521 at the point where it crosses Shimer's Creek. On October 9, 1722, Thomas Quick purchased a parcel of land from Solomon Davis, an early resident of Machackemeck, the future site of Port Jervis. It contained two acres and was bisected by a creek. Here Quick established a gristmill. Others followed and there are now a large number of foundations along the creek in this vicinity.²³

The Quick Family of Millville is best known for Tom Quick, son of the purchaser of the two-acre plot. When his father was killed by Indians, the younger Quick pledged to devote the rest of his life killing Indians. He set an initial goal of one hundred and it was believed by some that he was well into his second hundred when he died. Other accounts indicate that he died one short of his goal.

Site # 82--Shimer Houses

The older of the two houses stands facing Route 521 while the other is down the land to the west. The older structure bears little resemblance to the home occupied by Capt. Abraham Shimer in 1777. The exterior of the house is of the Greek Revival style, though some of the original

22. Beck, The Roads of Home. p. 5; Stickney, "Old Mine Road," Wantage Recorder, November 24, 1911; Hine, Fact and Fancy Old Mine Road, p. 139; and Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island, p. 49.

23. McTernan, "Esopus-Minisiuk Way," p. 35.

structure may be hidden beneath the ornamental veneer. Two large brick chimneys are on the ends of the two-and-a-half-story house and there is a story-and-a-half salt-box addition on one end. There is a profusion of classic ornamentation on the exterior. All the windows except those in a rear, lean-to, portion are modern casements. The interior of the house has also been greatly altered.

The second Shimer house is a story-and-a-half frame house with half exposed chimneys at each end. Apparently it was built in three sections with the present front entrance facing away from the lane. The trim and mantels date the house as late 18th or early 19th century. The chimney in the east room features provincial carving and appears to date about 1800 or earlier. The main portion of the house had two rooms with a central hall and staircase. There are chair rails throughout. The flooring is old wide boards. The second floor has the same room arrangement as the first. The mantels and fireplaces are quite ornate for the rather plain attic rooms. All interior doors are four horizontal panel types. The kitchen wing was added to the original front of the house at a much later date. The structure is abandoned and the clapboards are in poor condition. Surrounding the structure are barns and foundations of earlier barns.²⁴

Site # 83--Brick House Hotel (Montague)

This was built in 1776 by Roger Clark of bricks manufactured within 3/4 mile of the site. It was a major stopping place for several stage lines that crossed the Delaware at this point. The hotel continued operation until the 1940's. The town of Montague that grew up about the hotel was known originally as Brick House. Besides the hotel there was by 1872 a store operated by Cole, Martin, and Son, a second general store run by J. J. Coykendal, a gristmill, a combination grist and sawmill, and

24. Souder, pp. 160-62; Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island, p. 48; Decker, That Ancient Trail, pp. 131-33; New Jersey Historic Preservation Survey Form on the site in files DEWA; and Dillahunty Field Survey.

a blacksmith. In 1830-32, the first bridge over the Delaware was built near here of stone. It was later replaced by a wooden one which was torn down in 1862 to be replaced by a suspension bridge. The hotel was torn down in the mid-1950's for construction of the present bridge. The intersection of U.S. 206 and New Jersey 521 is near the site.²⁵

This concludes the site survey of more than 80 sites along the New Jersey side of the Delaware. For the most part there is little of major historical or architectural importance within the boundaries of the recreation area. The homes and farms that stood beside the Old Mine Road and all the other roads near the Delaware River were owned by common people who lived on the land, farmed it, died, and were buried there. Even today the region gives the feeling of quiet solitude.

25. Cary, Historical Study Tocks Island, p. 47; Webb, Sussex County Historical Directory, p. 40 and 136; Decker, That Ancient Trail, p. 136; Hine, Fact and Fancy Old Mine Road, p. 142; and Dillahunt Field Survey.

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Most of the research concentrated upon published material of a primary or secondary nature in the Library of Congress, at the County Courthouses of Warren and Sussex Counties, and in the extensive historic research files of Delaware Water Gap NRA. In the listing that follows, only those sources that provided information directly related to the area are listed. In a few cases a sentence of annotation follows the individual entry.

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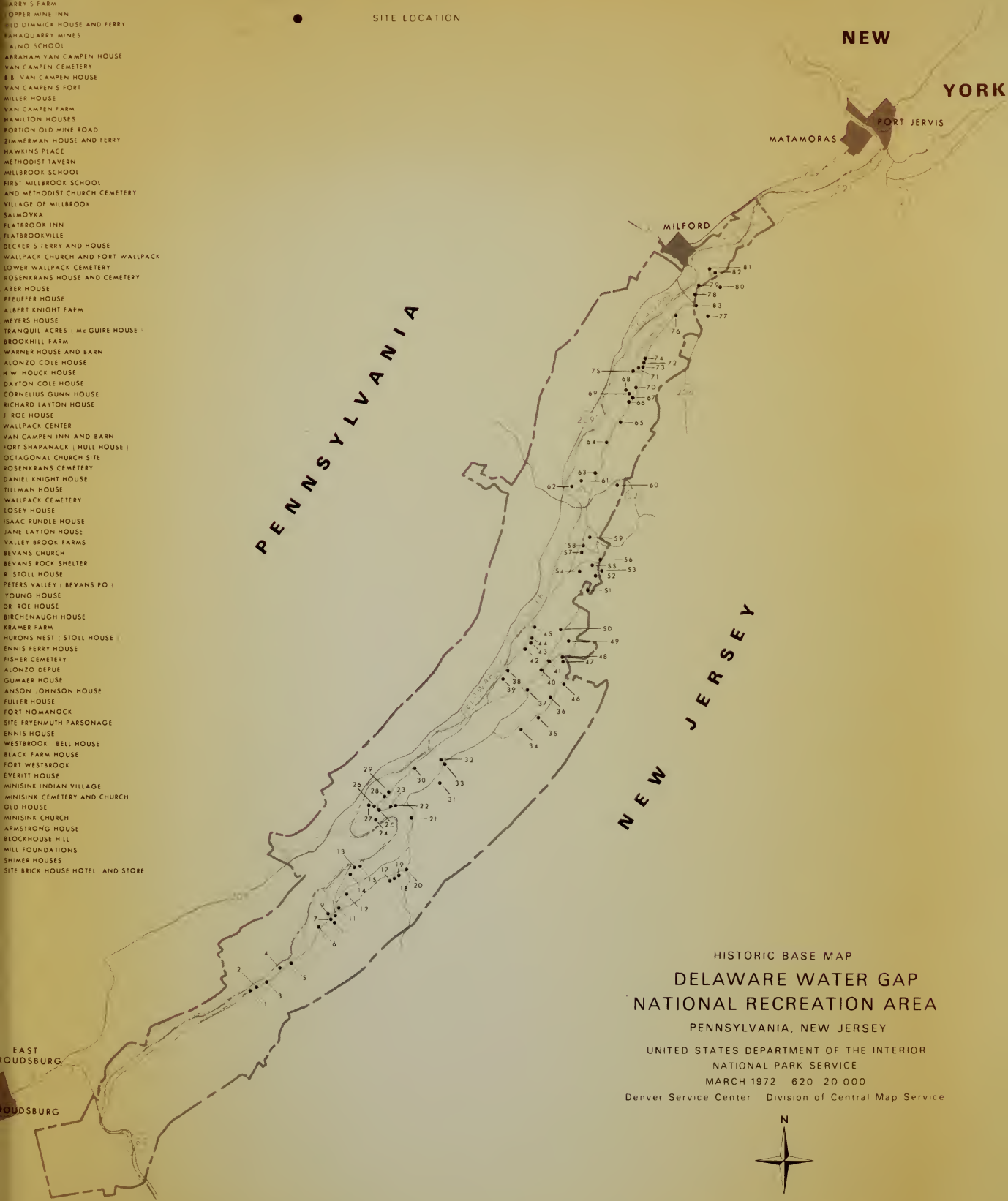
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- ALINO SCHOOL
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- VAN CAMPEN CEMETERY
- BB VAN CAMPEN HOUSE
- VAN CAMPEN'S FORT
- WILLER HOUSE
- VAN CAMPEN FARM
- HAMILTON HOUSES
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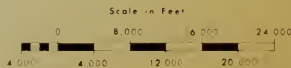


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